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Letter dated 29 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Togo held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May 2013. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kodjo **Menan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Togo (May 2013)

Under the presidency of Togo in May 2013, the Security Council held 13 public meetings and 12 closed consultations. It also held one private meeting, two informal interactive dialogues and one Arria-formula meeting.

The Council adopted three resolutions and two presidential statements and issued nine statements to the press.

Africa

Somalia

On 2 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2102 (2013), by which it established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), with a mandate to provide good offices functions in support of the peace and reconciliation process of the Federal Government of Somalia, and to provide strategic policy advice on peacebuilding and State-building as appropriate. The Mission would also assist the Government in coordinating international donor support, particularly on security sector reform and maritime security, and in building its capacity to promote respect for human rights, women's empowerment and child protection, prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and strengthen Somalia's justice institutions. UNSOM would also monitor, investigate and report on human rights violations and abuses. The Council decided that UNSOM would be headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, based in Mogadishu and established by 3 June 2013 for an initial period of 12 months, and be renewed as appropriate.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 6 May, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson, briefed the Council on recent developments in the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

She reported on her visit, from 28 April to 5 May, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other States of the region, including Rwanda and Uganda. Her discussions with the leaders of those countries, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and representatives of civil society, and her meeting in Addis Ababa with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, had focused on the effective implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013. She had noted a commitment on the part of all stakeholders to making determined efforts to ensure the success of the new United Nations approach to peace, but the situation remained fragile and only an effective monitoring of the entire process, a coordinated and concerted approach for a negotiated political solution rather than a military one, could lead to

a positive outcome. Hence, she called on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to remain committed to the Kampala talks and on the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) to return to the negotiating table without delay in order to conclude a peace agreement as soon as possible.

In their statements, the Council members called on all those involved in resolving the crisis, in particular the countries of the region, to respect scrupulously and implement effectively the commitments undertaken. They also invited the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23 to resume dialogue immediately in order to reach a sustainable solution to the crisis. They stressed the need for the Government to remain strongly committed to the comprehensive peace process and to implement as soon as possible the reforms mentioned in the Framework. Some members highlighted the need to turn the vicious circle of illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo into a virtuous circle of regional economic cooperation.

On 8 May, the Council held urgent consultations following the attack perpetrated the previous day in Walungu, South Kivu, against a convoy of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which had resulted in the death of one Pakistani peacekeeper.

In his briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, said that investigations were ongoing to identify those responsible, who should in due course be brought to justice.

The Council members unanimously strongly condemned the attack and requested the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to work closely with MONUSCO to apprehend those responsible for that criminal act. They expressed their condolences to the Government of Pakistan and the family of the peacekeeper killed in the attack, and emphasized the need to improve the safety and security of all Mission personnel. Following that meeting, the Council members issued a statement to the press, in which they reflected their condemnation of the attack and attempted hostage-taking.

On 29 May, the Council held closed consultations on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during which the Secretary-General gave a briefing on his mission to that country and to other States of the subregion before participating in the first meeting of the regional oversight mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, held in Addis Ababa on the sidelines of the celebration of the African Union's fiftieth anniversary. He said that he had been accompanied to the Great Lakes region by the President of the World Bank. The Secretary-General was optimistic about the success of the new United Nations strategy for peace in the region, which has great potential in respect of natural resources.

He informed the Council that he had drawn the attention of the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda to the political, security and economic components of the "framework of hope" as well as the strengthening of the support of the international community, which were prerequisites for the restoration of sustainable peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and throughout the region. On that last point, he welcomed the announcement by the President of the World Bank of additional assistance in the amount of $1 billion to further the socioeconomic development and regional

integration efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all the countries of the region.

Referring to the circumstances in the Central African Republic, he strongly encouraged the Council to consider all possible options for helping to redress the situation in that country, including individual sanctions against those responsible for various types of abuses and grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In their statements, the Council members welcomed the convening of the first meeting of the regional oversight mechanism and the World Bank's announcement of additional financial assistance for the peace and development process launched under that framework. The Council members called on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the countries of the region to uphold their commitments and to take ownership of the instruments established for the peace process in order to bring about stability and sustainable socioeconomic development in the region.

They placed particular emphasis on the need for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to carry out security sector reform. The Council members also condemned the resumption of hostilities between the Congolese army and M23, and called on the Government and the rebels to resume their dialogue immediately.

One delegation proposed that the Council follow the Secretary-General's lead by organizing a visit to the region, as such a visit would lend strong political support to the United Nations-backed peace process.

Some delegations expressed concern about the ongoing preparations initiated by the Secretariat with a view to using unmanned aerial vehicles in other peacekeeping missions, in particular in Côte d'Ivoire. They stressed that any proliferation of that practice could be possible only after thorough assessment of their trial use by MONUSCO. Other delegations indicated that they were ready to support the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in missions beyond MONUSCO without that step.

Libya

On 7 May, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, on the situation in Libya. The Prosecutor addressed the issue of the challenge of the admissibility of the cases of *Saif al-Islam Qadhafi* and *Abdullah al-Senussi* before the Court, and the necessity for the protection and security of judges, the Prosecutor and staff of the Court in the execution of their mandate.

Following the opening remarks, Council members focused their discussions on the admissibility challenges, many Council members affirming that Libya is a perfect example and laboratory of applied complementarity within the framework of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Others insisted on the Court not competing with national jurisdictions, the necessity to protect judges, prosecutors and staff, and for cooperation and support to the Court. The Prosecutor indicated that it was important for the Council to follow up on Court matters, by way of a presidential statement or resolution and also through exchange of information in relation to specific cases.

On 8 May, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on the situation in Libya. The Prosecutor said that the Council had referred the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court. She explained that since Libya had filed admissibility challenges with regard to the cases concerning *Saif al-Islam Qadhafi* and *Abdullah al-Senussi* before the Court, her Office had suspended investigations into those cases pending a ruling by the Pre-Trial Chamber. She said that only that Chamber could declare those cases inadmissible before the Court. She reported that her Office had opened investigations concerning officials of the former regime who were suspected of crimes but were currently living outside Libyan territory. Her Office was also investigating crimes committed by rebel forces, including the persecution and expulsion of ethnic groups, such as those in Tawergha, who were accused of having supported the Qadhafi regime. Her Office had held fruitful preliminary discussions with the Libyan authorities to advance the investigations both within and outside Libya.

Several members of the Council hailed the progress made in Libya in building social cohesiveness and stability and called on the Libyan authorities to consolidate those advances by respecting human rights and combating impunity.

Virtually all the Council members recalled that, in accordance with the principle of complementarity, it was for the Court to determine whether to uphold Libya's admissibility challenge and allow Libya to investigate and prosecute Saif al-Islam Qadhafi and Abdullah al-Senussi. Some Council members expressed concerns about Libya's capacity to guarantee due process, as the Libyan authorities did not appear to control the entire territory and Saif al-Islam Qadhafi was still being detained in Zintan at the hands of the rebels.

Some members of the Council considered that, while the Council's referral of the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court had promoted reform of the justice system in Libya, there remained many complex challenges with respect to the authorities' willingness to carry out investigations and institute proceedings at the national level. Several members of the Council stated that Libya must respect the Pre-Trial Chamber's rulings on admissibility, whatever their outcome. Some members said that even if the Chamber ruled in favour of Libya's admissibility challenges, the Court should continue to play an oversight role in the proceedings.

Delegations praised the investigations and prosecutions of crimes by the Court in Libya. Some delegations stressed a lack of progress concerning crimes committed by Libyan rebels as well as allegations of crimes committed in the course of the NATO-led military operations in Libya.

On 13 May, following the Benghazi attack, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which its members condemned in the strongest terms the deadly attack, which had caused numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the victims of that act, and to the Government and people of Libya. They underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of that act to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Libyan authorities in that regard.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 9 May, the Council held its first consultations of the month on the Sudan and South Sudan. In a presentation to the Council on the situation between the two countries, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Haile Menkerios, recalled the tragic incident of 4 May in the Abyei area, which resulted in the deaths of the Paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinka and one peacekeeper of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), and left three others wounded. He noted his visits to the two countries following the incident and meetings with the Presidents of the Sudan and South Sudan and a number of senior officials of both countries. They had discussed various approaches for addressing the root causes of the conflict and for finding ways to resolve outstanding issues. He added that after the incident the Presidents had maintained regular contacts and responded proactively to calm the situation. He had called for immediate action to make Abyei arms-free and for a credible and transparent investigation of the incident. He also urged both sides to press for the speedy establishment by the parties of the temporary institutions in Abyei, including the administration and the police service. On the question of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), the Special Envoy noted that the draft declaration of common intent submitted by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel should be accepted by both parties. He also said that there was a risk that the hostilities in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile would spread to other parts of the Sudan and that the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) would open a new front in the east of the country. He also reported that both sides had agreed to a one-week moratorium in fighting to allow for a vaccination programme for children. SRF was trying to show that it has a national agenda. The drafting of a new Constitution provided an opportunity to address not solely problems in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions but also issues of governance and participation by all regions in governing the country.

The Council members welcomed the proactive responses of the two Presidents after the incident of 4 May. They commended the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on its commitment and underlined the need to monitor the progress made by both sides. They stressed that the parties had recently displayed a willingness to move forward on the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012), and that the Council should support the parties and the Panel.

Regarding the tragic incident of 4 May, the Council members issued a statement to the press on 6 May, in which they condemned the attack by Misseriya elements and expressed their condolences to the families of those killed in the attack, the Ngok Dinka community, the Government of Ethiopia and UNISFA. They welcomed the announcement by the Government of the Sudan of an urgent, transparent, thorough and fair investigation into the incident, as well as its pledge to bring the perpetrators to justice.

On 16 May, the Council considered, in closed consultations, the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan. The Chair of the Committee and Permanent Representative of Argentina, María Cristina Perceval, reported on the Committee's activities during the period from 7 February to 16 May 2013.

She reported that the Committee had held informal consultations with the new Panel of Experts, in advance of their planned six months in the Sudan. Four of the

five Panel members, but not the finance expert, who have been issued two-month single-entry visas, had travelled to the Sudan. She noted that the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, with whom she spoke, emphasized that anyone who might threaten the security of the Sudan would be denied entry into the country and that the Security Council should bear that in mind in appointing new Panel members. Several Council members regretted that the finance expert had been denied a visa, and deplored the bureaucratic impediments hampering the experts' work.

The Chair noted that the Committee had accepted the Panel's proposal to submit the interim report by 31 July 2013, the midterm report by 31 October 2013 and the final report by 17 February 2014. The Committee also approved the updated list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and asset freeze.

Council members expressed their concern about the deteriorating security situation in Darfur. Some members called for continued efforts to raise awareness among States that provided military aid to the Sudan, as the weapons supplied to that country could be used in Darfur. They also deplored continued violations of the sanctions regime, and directed that the final report of the Panel of Experts should highlight violations of international humanitarian law and contain information on child recruitment.

The Council members urged all parties involved in the Darfur conflict, in particular armed movements that had not signed the Doha Document, to cease hostilities, respect international humanitarian law and engage fully and unconditionally in the peaceful settlement of the conflict. They noted the importance of imposing sanctions against all those who were blocking the restoration of peace in Darfur.

On 23 May, in closed consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan and presented the report of the Secretary-General of 17 May on the situation in Abyei.

Regarding the Sudan and South Sudan, he said that there had been no substantial developments in relation to outstanding issues since the last presentation to the Council, and that direct negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N would resume early in June. He pointed out that following the recent attacks by SRF the Government of the Sudan accused the Government of South Sudan of supporting the rebels in the Sudan. He indicated that the two Presidents would meet at the African Union summit in Addis Ababa on 25 and 26 May. He urged the Council and the international community to press the parties to fulfil their obligations.

The Council members condemned the SRF attacks and urged the parties to use existing tools, in particular resolution 2046 (2012), to settle their differences. Some members condemned the aerial bombardments and regretted that the Council had been unable to agree to send a message to the parties and ascribe responsibility whenever necessary, implicitly referring to the draft presidential statement proposed by the United States of America, which the Council had been unable to adopt.

Concerning UNISFA, the Assistant Secretary-General, introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/294), said that during the reporting period the situation in the Abyei area had remained generally calm, although there had been

several incidents, the most serious of which was the attack on 4 May on a UNISFA convoy and a delegation from the Ngok Dinka tribe. He said that the two communities were still armed and UNISFA had continued to implement its multifaceted conflict prevention and mitigation strategy. However, the vacuum resulting from a lack of any administrative or law and order institutions continued to create a serious burden for UNISFA.

With respect to political developments, he said that very little progress had been made on the implementation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011. The parties had not resolved their dispute over the composition of the Abyei Area Council; that was also preventing the establishment of the other temporary institutions, namely the Abyei Area Administration and the Abyei Police Service. Furthermore, no progress had been made on the resolution of the final status of Abyei.

The Assistant Secretary-General urged the leadership of the two communities, the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka, to ensure that their members did not carry weapons inside the Abyei area and to establish an intercommunal dialogue to decrease tensions. He also urged the parties to take immediate measures to ensure the complete withdrawal of all unauthorized armed elements and also prevent the entry of those elements into the Abyei area. He requested the Security Council to grant an increase in the authorized strength of the UNISFA military component by 1,126 personnel.

The Council members deplored the deterioration in the security situation in the Abyei area. They urged the two parties to fulfil their commitments with respect to Abyei and called on the two Presidents to consider the question of the final status of the area. They supported the renewal of the UNISFA mandate and the proposal to increase the Force's military strength by 1,126 personnel.

On 29 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2104 (2013), by which it extended the mandate of UNISFA until 30 November 2013 and increased the authorized troop ceiling to 5,326 to enable the Force to support fully the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The Council, inter alia, urged the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to take steps immediately to implement confidence-building measures among the respective communities in the Abyei area, and urged all such communities to exercise maximum restraint in all their engagements and to desist from inflammatory acts or statements that might lead to violent clashes.

In a statement following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of South Sudan reaffirmed his country's commitment to cooperation with the Security Council. He commended the work of UNISFA and the critical troop contribution of Ethiopia. He said that the increase in the Force's troop ceiling would support stability in the border areas between the two States. He called for an international investigation to determine the causes of the incident of 4 May 2013.

The representative of the Sudan said that he welcomed the extension of the UNISFA mandate and the increase in its troops to enable it to monitor the safe demilitarized border zone. He declared that his country had condemned the recent incident in Abyei and had insisted that it should be investigated and the perpetrators apprehended and tried. He concluded that his country was keen to normalize its relations with South Sudan and that South Sudan should respect the agreements it had signed and refrain from supporting the rebels.

Guinea-Bissau

On 9 May, the Council held a meeting followed by closed consultations on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, focusing in particular on the assessment of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS, José Ramos-Horta, introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/262), said that connivance between the political elite and the military was the root cause of failed leadership in Guinea-Bissau, resulting in human rights violations and fostering impunity, organized crime and drug trafficking in that country. He added that recent political developments in the country had been positive, including the signing, on 30 April, of an agreement among the country's stakeholders concerning the political transition and anticipated adoption of a new "regime pact", and road map for the conduct of elections in 2013 and the formation of an inclusive transitional government within a short time. He also highlighted the need for the international community to strengthen its support for Guinea-Bissau in order to promote the restoration of constitutional order, stability in the short, medium and long terms, and development.

Statements were also made by the Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti; the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, João Soares Da Gama; the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Youssoufou Bamba, speaking on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, António Gumende, speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

In consultations, the Council members said that it was important to continue to press the stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to ensure that the consultations under way would lead to the speedy adoption of the new regime pact, with a view to the conduct of elections by the end of 2013. They urged the Special Representative to press the political leaders of Guinea-Bissau to make more determined efforts to combat impunity and drug trafficking. They regretted that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had closed its presence in Guinea-Bissau, for lack of resources, and stressed the need to find an appropriate mechanism for sharing information on the phenomenon and punishing traffickers. However, the Secretary-General's suggestion on the establishment of a panel of experts on drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau was not seen by all members of the Council as the most effective way to address this challenge.

On 22 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2103 (2013), by which it extended the mandate of UNIOGBIS until 31 May 2014, while readjusting its focus as recommended by the Secretary-General to enable the Office, first, to support the return to constitutional order through free, fair and transparent elections, and then, after the elections, to assist in strengthening democratic State institutions through reforms, especially in the security and justice sectors, and in combating impunity and drug trafficking. On that last point, the Council expressed the need for a strong United Nations presence in Guinea-Bissau to combat the phenomenon, and encouraged the country's partners to contribute to support the return of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to Guinea-Bissau. In the resolution the Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide an anti-drug component within

UNIOGBIS, including appropriate expertise, to provide better information on the phenomenon. It invited the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to share all relevant information with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012), particularly in relation to the implementation of paragraphs 6 and 7 thereof.

Central African Republic

On 15 May, the Council held a public meeting followed by consultations on the situation in the Central African Republic. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Margaret Vogt, introduced the report of the Secretary-General at that meeting.

The Prime Minister of the transitional Government of the Central African Republic, Nicolas Tiangaye, and the Permanent Representative of Chad, speaking on behalf of the presidency of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), also participated in the meeting.

In her briefing, the Special Representative said that the security and humanitarian situation in the country was steadily deteriorating as a result of looting, destruction of public and private property, abuses of all kinds and grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. She added that the country was in a state of collapse in which everything was in need of rebuilding and failing to the extent that it would be impossible, even after security was restored, to register voters in order to ensure a credible electoral process and restore a democratically elected regime. She deplored the fact that, despite the existence of a well-defined framework for the political transition, based on the Libreville Agreements and the outcomes of the extraordinary summits of ECCAS, the Head of the Transition, Michel Djotodia, continued to rule by decree, and even claimed to have the power to remove the Prime Minister from office. She urged that the Prime Minister, who represented the credible and legitimate face of the Central African transition, should be strongly supported by the international community and in particular by the United Nations, which should also ensure his security, which was increasingly under threat.

In order to meet the most urgent needs of the Central African people, she recommended the following measures: urgent deployment of an international force to protect the civilian population, followed by the launching of a viable security sector reform programme; speedy adoption by the Security Council of individual sanctions against rebels responsible for grave abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in order to put an end to those acts and to impunity; the recomposition, as soon as possible, of the National Transitional Council so as to make it more representative of the various sociopolitical groups in the Central African Republic, while clearly and precisely setting out the responsibilities of the Head of the Transition and the Prime Minister; and mobilization of the necessary funding, not only for the provision of humanitarian assistance to displaced populations but also to forestall an acute food crisis in the country.

In his statement, the Prime Minister said that his country was experiencing an unprecedented security, humanitarian and political crisis, with the complete collapse of State institutions, anarchy and chaos, as well as the total disintegration of the army and law enforcement. Given that situation, he called on the international community, in particular the United Nations, to respond without delay. He appealed

for outside support for restoring peace and security, providing financial and humanitarian assistance and rebuilding his country. He requested the United Nations to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate human rights violations in order to prosecute their perpetrators and sponsors in national and international courts alike.

The representative of Chad underlined the need for the international community to come to the assistance of the Central African Republic to prevent the harmful effects of the crisis from spreading throughout the region.

In the consultations that followed the public meeting, the Council members expressed grave concern at the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. They denounced and condemned the continuation of grave abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, warning the perpetrators and sponsors that they would be held accountable for their actions in court. They highlighted the need to take urgent measures to restore security and to put a stop to the abuses, and called for the prompt reinforcement of the ECCAS Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) with support from the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

Central Africa

On 29 May, the Council held a public meeting to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2013/297). The report was introduced by the Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Abou Moussa.

He said that the general situation in the region was characterized by relative stability in the political, economic and security spheres, with the notable exception of the Central African Republic, where chaos had prevailed since the Séléka coalition had seized power by force, and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was plagued by recurrent instability. He also referred to the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which posed a threat to the civilian populations of the countries where that armed group was active. In recent months UNOCA had taken a number of initiatives in the region to address the challenges related to peacemaking and peacebuilding.

Given all those challenges, he emphasized the need for the countries of the region to take appropriate measures to counter the growing problem of youth unemployment, which posed a potential threat to peace and stability in Central Africa, and the phenomenon of elephant poaching, as the illegal ivory trade was being used to fund the activities of armed rebel groups.

In their statements, the Council members welcomed the progress made by the Central African countries in strengthening democracy and economic governance, although they expressed serious concern about the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, after the Séléka takeover. With respect to LRA, the Council members reiterated their strong support for the strategy for combating that armed group. They welcomed the strategy and the finalization of the concept of operations of the African Union Regional Task Force. Several members stressed the need for all the States of the region to cooperate with the International

Criminal Court by swiftly carrying out the international arrest warrants issued for Joseph Kony and his principal lieutenants.

In relation to efforts to combat piracy at sea, the Council members welcomed the forthcoming convening, in Yaoundé in June 2013, of a summit of Heads of State and Government of Central and West Africa on the issue, and expressed the hope that the outcome of that gathering would help to strengthen the strategy for combating that scourge.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/6) in which it welcomed the conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, adopted on 19 April 2013, concerning the situation of children and armed conflict affected by LRA, and called for their full implementation.

The Council also encouraged the United Nations, the African Union and ECCAS to work together, including through joint field assessments, to develop a common operating picture of the current capabilities and areas of operation of LRA, as well as to investigate its logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing, including alleged involvement in elephant poaching and related illicit smuggling.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 14 May, the Council held its biannual debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, introduced his report (see S/2013/263), which covered the period from 27 October 2012 to 20 April 2013. He indicated that during the reporting period the country had made little progress towards its self-proclaimed goals of joining the European Union and NATO. That situation was due to recurrent political crises in the country and to the hostile attitude of some of its leaders towards the Dayton Peace Agreement.

During the debate that followed the briefing, the Council members encouraged the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the reforms needed to move the country forward. One member expressed the view that the High Representative's report did not present an objective analysis of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and advocated the abolition of the Office of the High Representative. Other members, in contrast, said that the Office could not be abolished because none of the five objectives (agreement on the apportionment of State property, apportionment of defence property, permanence of the special status of the Brcko District, fiscal sustainability and entrenchment of the rule of law) and two conditions (signing of a stabilization and association agreement with the European Union and positive assessment of the situation) necessary for its closure had been met. Another member said that the Office should be reduced to a scale consonant with its residual responsibilities.

Cyprus

On 30 May, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, briefed the Council in informal consultations on his efforts to provide good offices with a view to the resumption of negotiations between the

Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities since the election on 24 February 2013 of Nicos Anastasiades as President of Cyprus.

Some members of the Council, while welcoming the announcement that negotiations between the two parties would resume, said that their understanding was that the Cypriot authorities' first priority was to deal with the unprecedented economic crisis affecting the country.

Several delegations urged the United Nations to continue its role in support of the parties in order to rebuild trust between the two communities during the current economic crisis.

Middle East

Lebanon (implementation of resolution 1559 (2004))

On 8 May, the Council held closed consultations in which the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), Terje Roed-Larsen, introduced the semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.

The Special Envoy said that during the reporting period no notable progress had been made in implementing the resolution, in particular with regard to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and efforts to ensure the country's unity and political independence. He referred to the activities of armed groups, stressing that the disbanding and disarmament of all militias had not yet been achieved. Cross-border arms smuggling continued and the Syrian-Lebanese border had not yet been delineated. He added that the Israel Defense Forces continued to violate Lebanese airspace. He said that the Syrian crisis had seriously affected the political situation in Lebanon. The policy of President Michel Sleiman of disassociating Lebanon from that crisis was not being fully implemented. In the social sphere, Lebanon was under severe strain as a result of its refugee population, as it had already taken in more than 540,000 Syrians and had always left its borders open despite shelling and airstrikes, which had killed and injured a number of Lebanese citizens.

In their statements, the Council members expressed deep concern about the lack of tangible progress in the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) and underlined the need for all the parties to meet their international obligations. They deplored the spillover of the Syrian conflict into Lebanon, in particular the inter-community violence and humanitarian crisis it had caused in that country. They called on all parties to the Syrian conflict to respect Lebanon's neutrality. Many Council members also expressed concern about Israel's violation of Lebanese airspace and called on Israel to cease those violations and withdraw from northern Lebanon. In addition, they emphasized the need to complete the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border without delay in order to put a stop to the arms smuggling that was taking place in the area.

Middle East peace process

On 22 May, at a public meeting, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

In his briefing, the Special Coordinator said that stability in the Middle East required action on two diplomatic fronts: the search for a solution to the Syrian conflict and the resumption of direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he hailed the efforts being made by the United States Administration, including the personal engagement of President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, to find a way to break the deadlock in the peace process. He also highlighted the renewed interest of regional stakeholders in the question, thanks in part to the visits made by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and a delegation of Arab ministers and leaders to Washington in April 2013, during which the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, first proposed in 2002, had been reaffirmed. He reported that there had been a number of incidents during the reporting period, including Israeli restrictions of access to holy sites in East Jerusalem and cases of administrative detention.

On the subject of the Syrian Arab Republic, he highlighted the escalation of violence and the worsening of the humanitarian crisis. He said that the Syrian crisis had repercussions in the area of operation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). He welcomed the initiative of the United States and the Russian Federation to bring the parties to the Syrian crisis to the negotiating table and urged all stakeholders to cooperate for that purpose.

Referring to Lebanon, the Special Coordinator said that the Syrian crisis was putting that country under increasing pressure in the political, economic and security spheres. He reported that there had been incidents of shelling from the Syrian Arab Republic into Lebanese territory and a significant number of Lebanese fighters were involved in the Syrian conflict, notably from Hizbullah.

He concluded by saying that ending the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic was a matter of great urgency, but at the same time it would be dangerous to assume that a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was less important. The mounting risks to regional stability were real, and it was imperative that everyone should work collectively to lay the foundations for a better future for the Middle East.

In the closed consultations that followed the briefing, the members of the Council welcomed the efforts being made by the United States Administration for the resumption of direct negotiations. The United States delegation announced that Secretary of State John Kerry would undertake another mission to the region beginning on 23 May 2013.

Most of the Council members expressed concern about the current situation in the region, including the announcement of a new plan to build 300 housing units in the West Bank and the ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip. They also considered that the restrictions on religious freedom in East Jerusalem were very troubling. Many members condemned the firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel and said that both parties should show restraint, promote mutual trust and commit themselves to the resumption of direct talks.

With respect to the Syrian Arab Republic, they welcomed the initiative of the United States and the Russian Federation to convene a conference in Geneva that would bring all the parties together, including the countries affected by the Syrian crisis.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

With respect to the current situation in the area of operations of UNDOF, on 7 May the Council members issued a statement to the press, in which they condemned the detention of four UNDOF peacekeepers from the Philippine battalion within the Area of Limitation in the vicinity of Al-Jamla by armed elements of the Syrian opposition, and demanded their unconditional and immediate release.

On 16 May, the Council issued a statement to the press on the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). In that statement the Council members condemned the incident of 15 May in which a group of anti-Government armed elements had detained three United Nations military observers from the UNTSO Observer Group in Golan for several hours and had looted a United Nations observation post within the area of separation.

Thematic issues

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 7 May, the Council held a briefing on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular its cooperation with the United Nations.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE, Leonid Kozhara, briefed the Council on the priorities of his country's term of office at the helm of that organization. He indicated that Ukraine intended to modernize the politico-military instruments of OSCE, pursue disarmament efforts and continue to place the human dimension at the core of global security, while working to strengthen cooperation between the organization and the United Nations. He said that Ukraine planned to give new impetus to the resolution of deadlocked or protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, including those in Transnistria, Georgia and Nagorno Karabakh. As the security dimension was the major focus of OSCE action, Ukraine, he said, would emphasize the need to optimize mechanisms for early warning, preventing conflicts and responding to new challenges and threats that went beyond purely military and security considerations, such as drug trafficking, organized crime and cyberterrorism. The other core theme of Ukraine's term of office would concern the economic and environmental dimensions. During its term at the helm of OSCE, Ukraine planned to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities; focus on the human, humanitarian and democratic dimension of the entity's actions; and act more effectively to combat trafficking in persons.

The Council members acknowledged the major contribution of OSCE to the promotion of peace and security in its area of operation and welcomed the efforts made by the Ukrainian presidency in this regard. OSCE and the United Nations were encouraged to continue to strengthen their cooperation by drawing on each other's experiences in order to achieve better results. Some delegations expressed the hope that other regional organizations would benefit from the expertise of OSCE in various fields, including electoral processes and support for democratization processes, confidence- and security-building measures and counter-terrorism.

Subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

On 10 May, the Council heard briefings by the Chairs of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which deal with sanctions against Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, counter-terrorism, and prevention of access to weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, respectively.

On behalf of the three Committees, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) explained the cooperation between the Committees since the last Council briefing in November 2012 as well as directions for future endeavours. The Permanent Representatives of Australia, the Republic of Korea and Morocco, in their capacity as Chairs of the three Committees, each briefed the Council on key activities of the respective Committees and their expert groups. The Chairs declared their preparedness to hold regular meetings in order to improve the coordination of their work, not only in terms of assistance, information-sharing and outreach, but also in the planning and conduct of field visits and staff training.

The Council members congratulated the three Chairs on their work and recognized the importance of cooperation and coordination among the various Committees and expert groups.

On 16 May, the Council held consultations, for the presentation of the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006).

The Chair of the Committee, and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Sylvie Lucas, briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee, in particular regarding the follow-up to resolution 2094 (2013), including the reappointment of the members currently serving on the Panel of Experts and the procedure for the selection of an eighth expert, the adjustment of the Panel's reporting schedule, the drafting of a new implementation assistance notice as mandated by paragraph 22 of that resolution and the update of existing implementation assistance notices. The Chair informed the Council that the Committee had already approved an updated implementation assistance notice providing information to assist Member States in carrying out their obligations under Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013). The Committee had also adopted and sent to all Member States a note verbale highlighting key elements of resolution 2094 (2013) related to States' reporting obligations set forth in that resolution, and informing them of the updates to the Consolidated List and the lists of items prohibited for export to and import from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Chair reported that no national implementation reports had been received during the period under review, despite the requirements set out in paragraph 11 of resolution 1718 (2006), paragraph 22 of resolution 1874 (2009) and paragraph 25 of resolution 2094 (2013). The Committee was considering the Chair's proposal to hold an open briefing for all interested Member States on a date agreed by the Committee to share information about the work of the Committee and the Panel as part of the Committee's outreach efforts to further the implementation of the measures contained in the relevant resolutions. That proposal had also been included in the revised programme of work that was currently under consideration in the Committee.

Council members once again recalled their strong condemnation of the third nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2013. Council members reaffirmed the need to maintain the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and denuclearize the peninsula through dialogue and negotiation, and called for the resumption of the six-party talks. Concerning the report, they urged the Committee to continue its efforts, and stressed the necessity for the full cooperation of Member States with the Committee.

Peace and security in Africa

On 13 May, the Council held a debate on the theme "The challenges of the fight against terrorism in Africa in the context of maintaining international peace and security". The President of Togo, Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, personally presided over the meeting.

In his briefing to the Council, the Secretary-General said that terrorism was a threat to peace, security and development in Africa. Extremist groups and terrorist entities such as Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb had entrenched their presence in several parts of the continent. Nonetheless, significant progress had been made towards restoring stability in Somalia since Al-Shabaab had been expelled from several strategic locations in the country. However, if the international community was to preserve and consolidate those gains, much remained to be done, especially with respect to the rule of law, development and political governance. Without a holistic and sustained approach to combating terrorism, there was a risk that the threat would simply be pushed from one area to another. It was equally necessary to strengthen the coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. He welcomed the initiatives taken by several regional and subregional organizations to formulate counter-terrorism strategies, which would help the United Nations to identify common threats and challenges, prioritize responses, strengthen collaboration, improve coordination and target international assistance to themes and areas where it was most needed.

The Director General of the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, Abdullahi Shehu, briefed the Council on his Group's activities to combat terrorism through measures adopted by the States of the subregion, in particular against money-laundering.

In his statement, the President of Togo said that terrorism was tied to poverty, weak governance, corruption and underdevelopment. In the areas where it established itself, terrorism eliminated any possibility of programmes for economic and social development. If African Governments were not given the means to conduct an effective and sustainable counter-terrorism policy by depriving terrorist groups of their armies, there was an alarming possibility that they could consolidate not just a terrorist arc, stretching from Mauritania to Nigeria and extending as far as the Horn of Africa, but also a lawless area available to traffickers from around the world. He affirmed that only a multi-pronged response, no longer a strictly military one, would make it possible to contain narco-terrorist criminal groups. In that regard, he said, it was essential to work on security issues together with development problems and the promotion of human rights. He declared that the international community therefore needed to develop, in consultation with the countries concerned, a global strategy embodied in a number of policy, diplomatic,

socioeconomic and security initiatives. Lastly, he urged partner countries to honour their commitments with respect to official development assistance and welcomed, in that connection, the decision by 11 States members of the European Union to launch a tax on international financial transactions.

In their statements, the representatives of the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development noted that there had been a resurgence in terrorism, particularly in Africa, and stressed the need for the international community to take appropriate measures to combat it.

The Council members also recognized that, despite the concerted efforts of the international community over the past decade to end the phenomenon, terrorism remained a serious threat to peace and security in Africa. They recognized that, unless the international community showed real commitment, the "arc of instability" stretching from Mali to Somalia could become irreversible and transform the entire African continent into a breeding ground for extremists and a launch pad for larger-scale terrorist attacks around the world.

The Council members took the view that the most suitable approach for tackling the problem included the promotion of better socioeconomic and environmental conditions, with a focus on youth employment and education. To that end, they advocated the adoption of a comprehensive approach for increasing economic growth, promoting good governance, reducing poverty, building State capacity, extending social services and fighting corruption, particularly in Africa, but also in other regions.

They also recommended tighter border controls and the regulation of cross-border activities in order to promote appropriate policies and necessary socioeconomic activities, especially with a view to the integration of the African economies.

In the presidential statement adopted at that meeting (S/PRST/2013/5), the Council noted with deep concern that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and the social and economic development of States, and undermined stability and prosperity in Africa, in particular that the threat had become more diffuse, with an increase, in various regions of the world, in terrorist acts, including those motivated by intolerance and extremism.

It also noted the changing nature and character of terrorism in Africa, expressed concern regarding the connection, in many cases, between terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as drugs, arms and human trafficking, and emphasized the need to enhance coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to that serious challenge and threat to international peace and security.

The Council reaffirmed the need for African States to work closely and directly through the relevant bodies of the African Union and other regional frameworks for the implementation of enhanced measures for cooperation, mutual assistance and coordination between security agencies, prosecutors and judges, with a view to making the collective endeavours of Africa more effective and, specifically, more proactive, in combating terrorism, and emphasized the need to

take all necessary and appropriate measures in accordance with international law to include protections for the right to life and other human rights in Africa.

Lastly, the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit, within six months, a concise report providing a comprehensive survey and assessment of the work of the United Nations system to help national, subregional and regional entities in Africa in fighting terrorism, with a view to continuing consideration of possible steps in that regard.

In the context of counter-terrorism, on 24 May the Council issued a statement to the press on the terrorist attacks that had occurred in Agadez and Arlit, Niger, on 23 May. The members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms those attacks, for which the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa had claimed responsibility, and which had caused numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the victims of those heinous acts.

Terrorism

In a statement to the press issued on 13 May, the Council members condemned in the strongest terms the deadly terrorist attacks that had occurred on 11 May in Reyhanli, Turkey, which had resulted in the deaths of at least 46 people and dozens of injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the victims of those heinous acts and to the Government and people of Turkey.

With respect to the Asia-related items on the Council's agenda on 26 May, the members issued a statement to the press on the terrorist attack of 24 May in Kabul, condemning in the strongest terms the attack centred on a compound of a United Nations-affiliated organization, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), causing a number of deaths and injuries, including injuries among staff members of IOM and the International Labour Organization, responsibility for which had been claimed by the Taliban.

Ad hoc international criminal tribunals

On 25 May, the Council issued a statement to the press on the contribution of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the fight against impunity. In that statement, the Council members recalled that 2013 marked the twentieth anniversary of Council resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, by which the Council had unanimously established the Tribunal. They recognized the contribution of the Tribunal in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

The Council members welcomed the forthcoming commencement of the functioning of the Hague branch of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals on 1 July 2013, and emphasized that the establishment of the Mechanism pursuant to resolution 1966 (2010) had been essential to ensure that the closure of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia did not leave the door open to impunity for the remaining fugitives and for those whose appeals had not been completed. The members of the Council reaffirmed their strong commitment to the fight against impunity.

Informal interactive dialogue on Kenya in regard to the International Criminal Court

On 23 May, the members of the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Permanent Representative of Kenya, Macharia Kamau, following a letter addressed to the Council in regard to the cases concerning post-election violence in 2007 against Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto, elected President and Vice-President of Kenya, respectively, in March 2013.

The Permanent Representative detailed the national efforts against impunity, such as the adoption of a new Constitution, the investigations of the Waki Commission which recommended the establishment of a special tribunal, the ongoing legal reforms, and prosecutions of thousands of cases. He confirmed the readiness of Mr. Kenyatta and Mr. Ruto to continue their cooperation with the International Criminal Court, but expressed his wish that the principles of justice and sovereignty be respected. He argued that the Court could not protect the Kenyan victims better than the Government of Kenya. He argued that the Council should send a clear message to the Court by way of a declaration in support of Kenya.

Council members noted that there was no legal basis, and the political reason supporting such a request was not clear. Some Council members understood the request to be a motion to the Security Council either to temporarily suspend the procedure pursuant to article 16 of the Statute of the Court, or to put an end to the prosecution. Some other Council members understood the Kenyan request to mean that the Council shall instruct the Court to expedite the procedure in order to conclude the cases as soon as possible.

Some Council members affirmed that even though the Council shall not influence the activities of the Court, they did not have any objection to the Council considering positively the Kenyan request. They added that Court activities should comply with the Charter of the United Nations, the principle of complementarity and the cultures of concerned countries. A Council member argued that sovereignty and justice should not undermine each other.

Other Council members emphasized the inappropriateness of the Council influencing activities of the Court. They stressed that Kenya is a party to the Rome Statute, and thus the Court is and remains the sole appropriate interlocutor for Kenya on this matter. Furthermore, they stressed that the Rome Statute, for good reasons, does apply equally to all persons without any distinction based on official capacity.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507) (wrap-up session)

On 30 May, the Council held a private meeting (wrap-up session) on the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507). States not members of the Council were invited to participate in the meeting as observers. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of the work carried out in May, to highlight positive and negative points and to propose better approaches to the consideration of the items on the Council's agenda, with a view to enhancing efficiency.

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Letter dated 11 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of June 2013. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (June 2013)

Introduction

Under the presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in June 2013, the Security Council held a total of 20 meetings, of which 3 were private and 4 were thematic. The Council adopted four resolutions and two presidential statements and issued eight statements to the press.

Africa

Liberia sanctions

On 13 June, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on Liberia sanctions. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan, Masood Khan, briefed the Council as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia. The Chair said that the Panel of Experts, whose mandate had been extended by the Council in resolution 2079 (2012), continued to investigate violations of the arms embargo and cross-border attacks, including emerging security concerns along the Liberia-Sierra Leone border. The Panel had provided an update on the activities and assets of individuals still subject to the travel ban and the asset freeze. The Panel had noted that the ineffectiveness of the regional offices was a key challenge to the successful implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds. Government control of the gold sector remained weak, but the Panel had found no evidence that revenues generated by the gold industry had been used directly to purchase weapons. However, remote gold mines continued to be used as self-sustaining assembly areas for militants and as areas to hide weapons. Conflict between communities and commercial companies persisted in the palm oil sector. The Government had not cancelled the procedurally flawed and illegal issuance of private use permits, which could lead to instability. Council members agreed that the arms embargo should remain in place, given the continued threat of cross-border attacks, the lack of legislation to allow it to be enforced and the failure of the Government to mark weapons. Council members also agreed further to review the targeted sanctions following the Panel's final report.

Libya

On 18 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Tarek Mitri, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Libya. The Permanent Representative of Rwanda, Eugène-Richard Gasana, also briefed the Council on the work of the Libya sanctions committee.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the situation in Libya had become more fragile since he had last briefed the Council in March. The outbreaks of violence in Benghazi on 8 and 15 June, the declaration by the Cyrenaica Transitional Council of a federal region in eastern Libya on 1 June and the siege of Government ministries by revolutionary brigades that led to the adoption of the political isolation law on 5 May, were events that bore witness to the significant challenges facing the Government of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan and Libya's democratic transition.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the increased likelihood of violent clashes between Government forces and revolutionary brigades, the risks to national reconciliation presented by the implementation of the political isolation law and the deeply worrying situation of the approximately 8,000 conflict-related detainees, demonstrated the urgency of adopting a transitional justice law based on truth-seeking, accountability and reparations. A draft was currently being considered by the General National Congress, and UNSMIL continued to provide advice on its scope and implementation.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General explained that the challenges facing the country may well have been the legacy of decades of authoritarian rule, dysfunctional State institutions and confusion around political norms. He said that he had repeatedly advocated establishing a national political dialogue to help to find consensus on the priorities for the transitional period. UNSMIL stood ready to facilitate that process, if requested by the Government of Libya. UNSMIL also continued to offer advice and assistance to the constitutional process, including encouraging the adoption of special measures to enhance women's participation in the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the role of UNSMIL in Libya had been subject to some controversy following the adoption of Security Council resolution 2095 (2013), under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Some in Libya suspected the international community's intentions as having an interventionist design under Chapter VII, while others called for a more robust United Nations presence. The Special Representative said that efforts needed to be made to dispel misperceptions and false expectations about the role of the United Nations.

Mr. Gasana updated Council members on the activities of the Libya sanctions committee and the Panel of Experts on Libya since the adoption in March of Council resolution 2095 (2013). He reported on the monitoring undertaken by the Panel of Experts in respect of compliance with the arms embargo, the asset freeze and the travel ban, including specific mention of the relocation of Aisha Qadhafi from Algeria to Oman.

In closed consultations, all Council members expressed concern over developments in Libya, focusing on security, politics and the situation with respect to detainees. They agreed on the urgent need for the Government to develop effective security forces, demobilize and reintegrate revolutionary brigades, tackle extremists, improve the security of its southern borders and control weapons proliferation. Council members regretted the severity of the political isolation law and the impact that its implementation would have on Libya's political transition. Council members expressed deep concern that the situation for nearly 8,000 conflict-related detainees had not improved and that UNSMIL had observed a

number of cases of torture. All Council members said that the international community and UNSMIL had a crucial role to play in supporting Libyan State-building efforts.

On 20 June, Council members issued a statement to the press on Libya (SC/11042), in which they expressed serious concern about the continued arbitrary detentions without access to due process of thousands of persons held outside the authority of the State.

Mali

On 19 June, the members of the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11040), in which they welcomed the signing of the preliminary agreement to the presidential election and the inclusive peace talks in Mali in Ouagadougou on 18 June 2013 between the transitional authorities of Mali, the Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad and the High Council for the Unity of Azawad. The members of the Security Council noted that the agreement paved the way for the nationwide holding of presidential elections and established a framework for inclusive talks with all communities of the north of Mali, which constituted an important step towards lasting peace and stability in Mali. The members of the Security Council called on those groups in northern Mali that were not signatories to the agreement and that had cut off all ties with terrorist groups to commit unconditionally to all the provisions of the agreement.

On 25 June, the Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the situation in Mali. In the open session, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Mali and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Albert Koenders; the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous; and the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Field Support, Ameerah Haq. The interim Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, Tiéman Hubert Coulibaly, also made a statement.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the security situation; the mediation and national reconciliation process, including the preliminary agreement recently agreed in Ouagadougou; preparations for the elections; and the humanitarian and human rights situation. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations said that his Department was focused on maintaining a seamless continuity between the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) and MINUSMA. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support said that her Department was focused on providing rations for the troops, fuel for vehicles and premises for working and living. Mr. Coulibaly said that remarkable progress had been made on the security and political tracks and urged the Council to authorize the transfer of authority from AFISMA to MINUSMA.

In consultations, Council members unanimously agreed that the transfer of authority from AFISMA to MINUSMA on 1 July should proceed, as envisaged by the Council in resolution 2100 (2013). Some Council members raised concerns about the preparedness of the AFISMA troops and the timing of the presidential elections. Some Council members also emphasized the need for enhanced efforts to address the humanitarian and human rights situation in Mali.

Sahel

On 26 June, the Security Council held a briefing and consultations of the whole on the situation in the Sahel region. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel, Romano Prodi, briefed the Council during the open session. The Special Envoy introduced the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. He said that his vision was for a four-by-four strategy, based on four pillars — governance, security, humanitarian requirements and development — and coordination in four spheres: among the Governments of the region; within the international community; among the peoples of the Sahel; and within the United Nations system. He said that the situation in Mali was symptomatic of what would happen in other parts of the Sahel if the international community failed to respond to the Sahel's challenges. He stated that success or failure in Mali would affect the entire Sahel; however, while focus and attention on Mali was critical, it should not be at the expense of the rest of the region.

Council members broadly welcomed the United Nations integrated strategy, but said that the key to its success would be in its implementation. The Permanent Representative of Morocco said that his delegation would draft a Security Council presidential statement calling for coordinated United Nations action to implement the strategy.

Somalia

On 6 June the Council was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, on the situation in Somalia. The meeting was chaired by Member of Parliament and United Kingdom Minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Fowsiyo Yusuf Haji Adan, and the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Tekeda Alemu, both spoke under rule 37.

The Deputy Secretary-General paid tribute to the London Conference on Somalia. He said that through the launching of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) on 3 June, the United Nations had begun a new phase of engagement in Somalia, in which the Organization would deliver "one door to knock on" for the Somali people, through an integrated mission. Progress over the past year had been good, but significant challenges remained. The Deputy Secretary-General said that Somalia now needed to focus on peacebuilding, reconciliation and the protection of human rights.

The Deputy Secretary-General said that the Government needed to focus on the implementation of a federal structure, the constitutional review process and a clear timetable towards elections in 2016. They would have the full support of UNSOM in doing this. Turning to events in Kismayo, he said the purported election of Ahmed Madobe was unconstitutional. He reported that there had been no reports of fighting yet, but that violence was certainly possible. Somalia needed help from its friends and neighbours in the region (in particular the Intergovernmental Authority on Development) — a strong Somalia was in all their interests.

The Deputy Secretary-General paid tribute to AMISOM and its personnel, but said that AMISOM needed more support. The United Nations was open to exploring all options for the future of international peacekeeping in Somalia. In August, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations would undertake a joint review with the

African Union to establish benchmarks for a "conditions-based" transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation. That exercise would also look at AMISOM progress against its concept of operations and any immediate needs.

Ms. Adan highlighted the progress that Somalia had made over the past 12 months. Through the suspension of the arms embargo, bilateral agreements with Ethiopia and Kenya, and recognition by the World Bank and United States of America, Somalia was making progress on its foreign policy priorities. Ms. Adan expressed commitment to improving human rights in Somalia. The Permanent Representative of Ethiopia said that the region was committed to supporting Somalia's transition to peace and stability.

Most Council members supported the conference on Somalia held in London and welcomed the deployment of UNSOM. Some Council members emphasized the need to deliver an integrated mission as soon as possible, and most said that UNSOM must be the main point of contact between the international community and the Government of Somalia. Most Council members underscored the need for human rights to be better protected in Somalia, and some members welcomed the steps the Government had already taken to improve the human rights situation. Members of the Council urged the international community to fulfil its obligations related to the targeted sanctions, the modified arms embargo and the charcoal ban to stop proceeds from providing revenue to Al-Shabaab. One member stressed that additional efforts were also needed to combat piracy, armed robbery and hostage-taking off the coast of Somalia.

Most Council members highlighted their support for the upcoming joint United Nations/African Union review of AMISOM. All Council members paid tribute to the sacrifices that AMISOM, Somali, and Ethiopian troops had made in support of peace in Somalia.

The Council adopted a presidential statement at the end of the briefing (S/PRST/2013/7). In the statement, the Council welcomed the Somalia Conference held in London. It highlighted the Council's concerns over human rights in Somalia, including its deep concern about reports of sexual violence perpetrated by armed groups, including the Somali armed forces. It welcomed the deployment of UNSOM and underlined its expectation that the Mission should be integrated by 1 January 2014. The Council encouraged the Government of Somalia and "Somaliland" to remain committed to dialogue.

The Council called on all parties in the Juba region to refrain from actions that might undermine peace and stability in Somalia. The Council welcomed the Government of Somalia's commitment to lead reconciliation efforts, with the support of UNSOM, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other appropriate actors.

On 13 June, in consultations under "Other matters", the Council received a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun, on the situation in Jubaland. The Assistant Secretary-General briefed the Council about the tension that had been building in the Juba regions since the 15 May "election" of Ahmed Madobe as "President" of Jubaland, which the Government of Somalia had rejected and considered unconstitutional. The Government had sent a high-level delegation to Kismayo on 16 May and a military delegation on 17 May. Tensions came to a head on 7 and 8 June when fighting broke

out between Mr. Madobe's Ras Kamboni brigade and a militia backing Istin Hassan, whom the visiting Defence Minister was trying to meet (but was prevented from doing).

The Assistant Secretary-General described allegations of Kenyan components of AMISOM in Kismayo restricting the movement of the Government of Somalia, which had attracted serious criticism from Mogadishu regarding the role of the Kenyans in Somalia. AMISOM had dispatched a senior-level delegation to Kismayo to assess the situation. A delegation from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development had also visited Kismayo between 16 and 19 May and had engaged a wide range of stakeholders. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, had met President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. Both had agreed on the need for calm and had made joint calls for peace. The Special Representative met Mr. Madobe on 9 June as well as the Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Commissioner of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. There remained the potential for further violence.

Most Council members expressed concern at the situation in Jubaland. Most members highlighted the importance of resolving the situation, under the leadership of the Government of Somalia, with support from others including UNSOM. Council members underlined that failure to address the issue had the potential to benefit Al-Shabaab, which was a situation that should be avoided at all costs. After the briefing, Council members drafted a statement to the press, which was issued on 13 June. In the statement (SC/11032), Council members expressed concern at the situation in the Juba regions and called on all parties to refrain from any action which might threaten peace and stability in the Juba regions. They reiterated their willingness to take action against those who undermined the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia.

On 19 June, Council members issued a statement to the press (SC/11039), in which they expressed outrage at the Al-Shabaab attack on a United Nations compound in Mogadishu. The members of the Council reiterated their willingness to take action against those whose behaviour threatened the peace, stability or security of Somalia.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 5 June, the Security Council held consultations of the whole on issues related to the Sudan and South Sudan.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the Council on the latest developments between the Sudan and South Sudan. The Special Envoy said that the issue of alleged South Sudanese support to the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) rebel group had become the subject of public confrontation. Sudanese President Omer Hassan A. Al-Bashir had threatened to prevent the recommencement of oil exports and end cooperation on the September agreements as a consequence. South Sudan had responded by trading counter-accusations and continuing to deny the provision of any assistance to Sudanese rebels. Menkerios said that it was time to consider a third party mechanism that could independently verify the claims.

The members of the Council expressed their concern at the recent increase in rhetoric and condemned any support to rebel groups. Several members of the Council said that any oil shutdown would be against the interests of both parties. Some Council members noted with alarm the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions, stressing the need for humanitarian access, the immediate cessation of hostilities and urgent resumption of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N to resolve political, security and humanitarian concerns. Some Council members expressed grave concern at the recent increase of military activity by the Sudanese Revolutionary Front in Southern Kordofan and Northern Kordofan, and strongly condemned the rebels' attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure. Some also urged the Council to consider targeted sanctions on Sudanese Revolutionary Front rebels, including those involved in the May 2013 assassination of the faction leader and other members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM-Bashar).

On 14 June, the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11034), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the attack earlier that day on the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) and the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism interim headquarters in Kadugli, and called on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

On 20 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, briefed the Council in consultations on the Sudan and South Sudan. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported on recent developments between the two countries, saying that, following mutual accusations about support to rebels in each other's territory, on 8 June the Government of the Sudan had announced its intention to suspend the export of oil from South Sudan. President Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, had written to both Presidents with a proposed way forward on the issues concerning disputes over the border; allegations of support to rebels; and hostile propaganda. Both Governments had agreed to engage on those proposals. While the public crisis was ongoing, technical discussions had been held on oil and the borders.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reported that fighting between the forces of the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N had intensified in the past two weeks in the area around Kadugli, with shelling and aerial bombardments reported. The Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism compound had been shelled on 14 June, resulting in the death of one UNISFA peacekeeper and the injury of two others. Sudanese Revolutionary Front admitted to shelling Kadugli, but said that it had been targeting a nearby military facility. In addition, on 12 June, there had been an attack leading to an explosion at a fuel station on the oil pipeline to the east of Diffra.

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs reported on her visit to the Sudan from 20 to 24 May, where the humanitarian situation remained complex. The humanitarian needs were great; for example, more people had been displaced in Darfur thus far in 2013 than had been in the previous two years combined. The humanitarian appeal for the Sudan for 2013 had thus far been funded by only 37 per cent. At the same time, assistance was reaching large numbers of people in need in

Darfur. She reiterated her condemnation of the attacks on civilians in Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and Northern Kordofan and called for respect for international humanitarian law. She said that there had been some improvements in access to Government-held areas, but that further improvements could be made in that regard and that there was no access to SPLM-N-held areas. Both sides had indicated their willingness to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, for example, on a polio vaccination campaign, but there had been no progress in that regard as yet. She said that her talks in Khartoum with President Al-Bashir had been constructive and that she now wanted to see their outcomes translated into action.

Council members expressed concern over the increased tension between the Sudan and South Sudan. Several noted that an oil shutdown would have a negative impact on both countries. They also said that the two countries should use established mechanisms for conflict and dispute resolution and welcomed the proposals of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. Several Council members said that all external support to the rebels should be stopped, while some urged the Council to consider imposing targeted sanctions on the rebels in the Sudan. Most Council members expressed concern at the humanitarian situation, and several stressed the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the resumption of direct talks over the two areas. Some said that this would create favourable conditions for a political settlement and humanitarian access to rebel-held territories.

International Criminal Court/the Sudan

On 5 June 2013, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, briefed the Council in an open meeting on her seventeenth report on the situation in Darfur. The Prosecutor expressed frustration, dismay and regret that inaction and paralysis within the Council continued while the plight of the victims of crimes committed in Darfur worsened. The Prosecutor was concerned that 300,000 people had been displaced in the first five months of 2013, more than had been displaced in the past two years.

The Prosecutor reported on recent judicial activities, including trial preparations for the Abdullah Banda case. The Office of the Prosecutor continued to monitor the situation in Darfur, including in respect of current crimes; alleged aerial bombardments and ground attacks targeting or indiscriminately affecting civilians; alleged widespread occurrence of sexual and gender violence; alleged crimes against human rights defenders, civil society members and community leaders; alleged abductions of and attacks on humanitarian aid workers and peacekeepers; and alleged deliberate infliction of conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction. The Prosecutor also expressed concern at the ongoing involvement of indictees in alleged crimes in the Sudan. She noted reports placing indictee Ali Kushayb at the scene of an attack on the town of Abu Jeradil, in which more than 100 civilians were killed, scores more injured and 30,000 displaced.

The Office of the Prosecutor took note of reports of prosecutions of rebels by the Government of the Sudan but said that there had been no real prosecutions of systematic crimes committed by Government forces. The recommendations of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on justice, if implemented, would go a long way towards addressing the challenge of the deliberate imposition and tolerance of impunity.

The Prosecutor reported the continuing failure of the Government of the Sudan to implement the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court. She expressed concern at the repeated travels of President Al-Bashir, particularly to Chad, and noted the decision by the Pre-Trial Chamber on 26 March that Chad had failed to cooperate with the Court by refusing to arrest and surrender President Al-Bashir. The Prosecutor observed that the relationship between the Council and the Court had begun to strengthen in a positive way but that more needed to be done. The Council needed to adopt appropriate measures within its mandate to ensure that Sudanese fugitives were brought to justice sooner rather than later. The Prosecutor called upon the Council to ensure the compliance of the Sudan with resolution 1593 (2005), urged all States to cooperate with the Court and encouraged the Council to engage with all relevant organizations addressing the Darfur situation, including the Court.

Members of the Council commended the Prosecutor for the progress made by her Office and expressed their views regarding the situation in Darfur. Some Council members expressed concern at the outstanding arrest warrants and at the failure of the Sudan and other States to cooperate with the Court, and stressed the need for the Council to consider further measures to ensure cooperation. Other Council members called for further progress in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan made a statement.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 11 June, the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11030), in which it condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack on 11 June near the Supreme Court building in Kabul, which had caused a number of deaths and injuries, including among Afghan women and children, and for which the Taliban had claimed responsibility. The members of the Council reiterated their serious concern at the threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and illegal armed groups to the local population, national security forces, international military and international assistance efforts in Afghanistan.

On 20 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš, briefed the Council in a public meeting on the situation in Afghanistan, drawing on the report of the Secretary-General (A/67/889-S/2013/350). The Special Representative said that Afghan security forces had entered the final phase in assuming the lead for security throughout the country, but that anti-Government elements were seeking to counter the effort by targeting security personnel and terrorizing civilians. He said that civilian casualties had increased, the major proportion of which was caused by anti-Government elements.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said it was hoped that legitimate concerns regarding the establishment of the Taliban office in Doha would soon be resolved, leading to direct talks between the High Peace Council and the Taliban. He noted that tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan were of concern.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General said that the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework senior officials meeting in July had to result in a

reinvigorated agenda for action. It was important to emphasize the mutual nature of commitments. The continued delay in the passage of electoral legislation was of concern: promulgation was necessary before the summer recess of the National Assembly. Progress would require proactive engagement from the Government.

The Permanent Representative of Afghanistan said that the Government of Afghanistan had agreed to the opening of a Taliban office in Doha on the basis that peace talks would be conducted in accordance with a concrete set of principles, as a venue for negotiations between the Taliban and the High Peace Council, and that the office would not serve as an official representation of the Taliban. In its view, however, the Taliban office had been inaugurated in a manner that had contradicted those principles. The Government of Afghanistan had therefore decided that the High Peace Council would not engage in peace talks under the circumstances in which the Taliban office had opened and decided to announce a suspension of negotiations on the bilateral security agreement with the United States. The Permanent Representative also underlined the threat of terrorism to the peace and stability of Afghanistan and the region. The members of the Council, as well as non-Council member States taking part in the debate, expressed the hope that the controversies surrounding the opening of the Taliban office could be overcome and that progress could be made on an Afghan-led peace process.

Council members welcomed progress on the security transition and condemned recent terrorist attacks by the Taliban and other illegal armed groups. Council members expressed concern at the rise in civilian casualties.

Council members underlined the importance of inclusive, credible and transparent elections and expressed concerns about the progress of preparations, including the delays in passing electoral legislation. Some Council members stressed the importance of making progress against the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework, including on human rights issues, and highlighted the importance of holding a senior officials review meeting in Kabul on 3 July.

Council members underlined the importance and value of regional cooperation, including the efforts undertaken with the framework of the Istanbul Process and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Some Council members noted the challenges caused by drug cultivation and trafficking and expressed concern at the developments set out in the report of the Secretary-General, including the increase in poppy cultivation.

Middle East

Iraq and Kuwait

On 27 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2107 (2013) moving the issues of missing persons and property from Chapter VII of the Charter to Chapter VI, under the oversight of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and ending the mandate of the High-level Coordinator on the issue of the repatriation or return of all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains. In the resolution, the Security Council welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the two parties and the efforts to resolve outstanding issues related to the border and compensation, and called upon the Government of Iraq to facilitate the search for Kuwaiti and third-country nationals or their remains still unaccounted for and to

continue efforts to search for missing Kuwaiti property. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari, addressed the Council, setting out the steps Iraq had taken to resolve outstanding issues and reaffirming Iraq's commitment both on the search for the missing and on continued payment of compensation to Kuwait as set by the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Also on 27 June, the Council held consultations of the whole on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco. The Assistant Secretary-General said that the Council's decision to adopt resolution 2107 (2013) paved the way for Iraq to regain its international standing and improve its relations with Kuwait, while preserving the humanitarian nature of the issue of missing persons and property by calling on Iraq to continue the search. He noted Iraq's commendable efforts to search for missing persons, as demonstrated by further excavations at the Kamissiyah site, although he expressed disappointment that the Kuwaiti archives had not yet been found. At the very least, their fate needed to be determined; the quarterly meetings between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti committees established for the purpose of coordinating the search should help in that regard.

Council members welcomed the completion of border maintenance and the transfer of funds to compensate Iraqi citizens affected by the border's demarcation in 1993, praising Iraqi efforts and Kuwaiti flexibility while calling for the search to continue. They also expressed appreciation for the role of the former High-level Coordinators in paving the way for progress. Some Council members noted that in this case the Council had fulfilled its mandate of promoting international peace and security. A number of Council members raised the issue of the deterioration of security in Iraq and said that the Council needed to remain vigilant.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 25 June, the Security Council held its monthly meeting on the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council at a public meeting. The briefing was followed by consultations of the whole.

The Assistant Secretary-General said that the whole region was feeling the reverberations of the Syrian conflict. The Council and the United Nations at large could not give up and let a sense of collective impotence erode their sense of responsibility. He noted that the leaders of the Group of Eight had reached an understanding on achieving a political solution in the Syrian Arab Republic, in which they committed to bringing the Syrian sides to the negotiating table and pledged an additional $1.5 billion in humanitarian aid. Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and safeguarding the two-State solution was no less urgent. He praised the continued efforts of Secretary of State of the United States, John F. Kerry, and said that there was a need for a conducive environment on the ground, including confidence-building steps. He expressed concern at the recent settlement announcements, attacks by settlers and the six rockets fired from Gaza into Israel on 23 June.

In respect of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs noted that the overall situation continued to deteriorate as a result of the ongoing violent military confrontation. The independent international

commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic had reiterated in its report of 4 June that war crimes, crimes against humanity and gross human rights violations continued apace. The involvement of Hizbullah fighters inside the Syrian Arab Republic was giving new momentum to the military approach of the Government and contributing to sectarian and political tensions throughout the region, while other Lebanese elements were also reported to be providing support to the other side and fighters from other countries were also reportedly participating in the conflict. He stressed that statements of increased military support to both sides in the conflict only promised further escalation and that only a political solution could bring an end to the violence in the country and the suffering of the Syrian people. The representatives of United Nations, the Russian Federation and the United States had met in Geneva on 25 June to discuss ways to ensure the success of the Geneva conference on the Syrian Arab Republic. The United Nations Mission to Investigate Alleged Uses of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic remained unable to conduct its fact-finding activities inside the country owing to the lack of authorization by the Government to provide access. The Secretary-General was also concerned about the negative impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon.

Following the briefing, the Council held consultations of the whole. On the Palestinian issue, members expressed support for the efforts of Mr. Kerry. Some members expressed concern about the negative impact that recent incidents might have on the peace process. They stressed the importance of dialogue and confidence-building between the two sides. Some members called on Israel to halt its settlement activities as well as lift restrictions on the Gaza Strip. In respect of the Syrian Arab Republic, all members reiterated the need for a political solution. A number of members raised concerns about the alleged use of chemical weapons, grave human rights abuses and the urgent need for humanitarian access. Some Council members noted that the regionalization of the Syrian conflict was compounded by Hizbullah's publicly stated involvement in fighting alongside the Syrian regime and the resulting impact on Lebanon's stability. Others expressed concern over the flow of fighters and weapons to armed opposition groups, as well as increasingly dangerous terrorist activities.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 18 June, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Security Council in closed consultations on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). He reported that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the opposition were now clashing daily in the Golan. It was unacceptable for non-UNDOF military personnel or equipment to be in the area of separation. Both parties to the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces had to ensure the safety and freedom of movement of UNDOF personnel. The 39-year-old ceasefire was at real risk. Looking ahead, UNDOF would focus its activities on static observation, liaison and reporting. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations intended to strengthen troop numbers to 1,250, enhance technical capabilities and equip peacekeepers with machine guns mounted on armed personnel carriers, enhanced body armour and extra ammunition. The rules of engagement were clear: deadly force could be used in self-defence. The theft of equipment and attacks on United Nations vehicles had to end. He concluded by sharing the assessment of the Office of Legal Affairs that, under the terms of the 1974 Protocol to the Disengagement Agreement, the permanent members of the

Security Council could not contribute troops without amending the Protocol, which would require the agreement of both parties. Council members welcomed the recommendations of the Secretary-General, and stressed the need for the Disengagement Agreement to be respected and for the security of UNDOF to be guaranteed.

On 6 June the Security Council issued a statement to the press (SC/11027), in which it strongly condemned the intense fighting in the Area of Separation in the Golan, which had led to injuries suffered by two UNDOF peacekeepers.

On 27 June, the Security Council adopted resolution 2108 (2013), in which it renewed the mandate of UNDOF for a period of six months, stressed the need to enhance the safety and security of UNDOF and endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General to consider further adjustments to the posture and operations of the Mission and to implement additional mitigation measures to enhance the self-defence capabilities of UNDOF, including by maximizing the Force strength.

Yemen

The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Yemen, Jamal Benomar, briefed the Council in closed consultations on 11 June. In respect of the national dialogue, the Special Adviser said that the nine working groups had made considerable progress in terms of outreach (meeting 12,500 people in 18 governorates) and recommendations (100 had been made to the plenary meeting). Divisions remained on the more contentious topics related to the south and Sa'dah. The newly established consensus committee would be an important vehicle to defuse tensions. The Government still had to establish a commission of inquiry into the events of 2011 or adopt a law on transitional justice.

Further confidence-building measures were needed in the south to address past grievances and stem the increase in violence. There was also evidence of increased Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula activity in Hadramawt and sabotage of infrastructure by those wanting to disrupt the transition. A shortage of electricity and a lack of key services were increasing frustrations.

Turning to the humanitarian situation, the Special Adviser commended the efforts of Saudi Arabia, but said that the response plan was still only 30 per cent funded. Internally displaced persons remained a challenge in the north. Increased assistance, the fulfilment of Friends of Yemen pledges and progress on implementing the mutual accountability framework were urgently needed.

Council members spoke in familiar terms and stressed their unity on, as well as support for, the inclusive political process. Some Council members expressed concern over outstanding donor pledges and evidence of Iranian weapons smuggling into Yemen. One delegation recommended that the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council be invited to brief the Security Council after Ramadan.

Europe

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

On 14 June, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Farid Zarif, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Kosovo. This was the first Security Council meeting since the first agreement on principles governing the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina and the subsequent implementation plan had been agreed. Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo and the Prime Minister of Serbia, Ivica Dačić, made statements.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General welcomed the progress made under the European Union-facilitated dialogue and noted the commitment made by both sides not to block progress on European Union accession talks. A culture of compromise and mutual respect between both sides prevailed, and signs of progress were encouraging. The Special Representative underlined that determination and persistence would be needed to sustain the spirit of compromise and mutual respect as both sides carried their agreement forward and implemented it in accordance with the plan signed on 22 May. He underlined the importance of the continued engagement of the international community in that regard. He also underlined that UNMIK was making efforts to ensure that its activities contributed to the creation, in close coordination with international partners, of an enabling environment for the implementation of the agreement. Nonetheless, in his report, the Secretary-General had noted that the threat of instability remained present in sensitive areas, both north and south of the Ibar River. The situation remained fragile and progress was not assured.

Mr. Dačić gave an assessment of the security situation in north Kosovo, citing that 60 ethnically motivated attacks had been reported in the first four months of 2013, up 20 from the same period in 2012. There were still concerns regarding the very slow progress in terms of the returns of internally displaced persons, attacks against the Serbian Orthodox Church and Kosovo's privatization of public assets. Mr. Dačić called for the UNMIK mandate to remain unchanged and the mission's activity enhanced, although he expressed understanding of the reasons for planned budget restrictions. He was keen to note the recent progress made and expressed his firm belief that the negotiations might lead to a solution acceptable for all.

In his speech, Mr. Thaçi said that Kosovo was committed to working with Serbia to ensure implementation of the agreement and looked forward to beginning on the path of European integration. The establishment of liaison offices engendered good relations beyond the institutional level and Kosovo would be represented at the ambassadorial level in Serbia for the first time. Local and municipal elections in October had been instrumental to establishing rule of law and democratic legitimacy across all of Kosovo. In the light of recent progress, he encouraged the Security Council to consider adopting a resolution in the near future to end UNMIK. He mentioned the recent recognition of Kosovo's independence by Guyana, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen.

All Council members supported the 19 April agreement facilitated by the High Representative of the European Union, Catherine Ashton. Most Council members congratulated both Mr. Thaçi and Mr. Dačić and welcomed recent progress, but

urged caution as tensions were still prevalent, especially in northern Kosovo. Some members underlined that resolution 1244 (1999) was the legal basis for resolving the question of Kosovo and that efforts to resolve the issue should be carried out within the framework of the resolution, with one member stating that only the Security Council had the authority to take decisions on the issue of Kosovo's status. Some members highlighted the issue of organ trafficking, and would closely monitor progress on the investigation led by the European Union Rule of Law in Kosovo; one member called for United Nations involvement in the investigation. Council members supported the continued efforts of UNMIK to implement its mandate; some Council members underlined that the Mission had a role to play in the implementation of the 19 April agreement.

Non-proliferation

Renewal of the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010)

On 5 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2105 (2013), in which it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 1929 (2010) until 9 July 2014, thereby assisting the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) for another year, and expressed its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 9 June 2014.

Thematic and other issues

Briefings by the Department for Political Affairs ("horizon scanning")

On 4 June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council in closed session on the Sahel, Iraq and Kuwait and the Syrian Arab Republic, focusing on preparations for a second conference in Geneva. In respect of the Sahel, he said that nowhere was the development-security nexus more evident and that failure to address the humanitarian, security, governance and developmental challenges in a holistic manner could fuel further instability. The United Nations had developed a strategy aimed at supporting the Governments and peoples of the region to address the causes of instability for the long term. Council members all agreed on the importance of the long-awaited Sahel strategy and of intraregional cooperation.

In respect of Iraq and Kuwait, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs endorsed the progress in relations between the two countries. Following the completion of border maintenance work and the signing of a memorandum of understanding on future maintenance, there was a "historic opportunity" to normalize relations. UNAMI had reached agreement with the Government of Iraq on payment of compensation to Iraqis relocated as a result of border demarcation more than 20 years ago. In addition, he said that both countries had indicated agreement to move the issues of missing persons and property from Chapter VII of the Charter to Chapter VI, under UNAMI supervision. He described the political situation as "worrisome", as demonstrations entered their sixth month. Following requests by both the Government and the demonstrators, UNAMI was stepping up contacts with political blocs, religious leaders and demonstrators so that it could play a facilitation

role. Council members noted the deteriorating internal situation in Iraq and welcomed the positive developments in the relations between Iraq and Kuwait.

In respect of the second conference in Geneva, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs welcomed the 7 May announcement by the United States and the Russian Federation to work towards holding a conference in Geneva, with the parties calling it the best opportunity for a negotiated solution in nearly a year. He said that the Secretary-General was also very concerned about the impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon. Council members were unanimous in their support of the United States-Russian initiative and welcomed United Nations involvement.

Peacekeeping: briefing by force commanders

On 26 June, United Nations peacekeeping Force Commanders from the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) briefed the Council on the use of modern technology; inter-mission cooperation; and in-mission assessments of predeployment training. Lieutenant General Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz reported that unmanned aerial vehicles would arrive in the Democratic Republic of the Congo imminently and should help the Mission to accomplish the tasks mandated by the Security Council in resolution 2098 (2013). The Mission would use those platforms to detect the location and movement of anti-Government forces, track their convoys and identify clandestine airstrips; in doing so, it would garner early warning of the intentions of armed groups. With their capacity to fly over sensitive and remote areas for many hours, the unmanned aerial vehicles would deter hostile action. That said, he noted that there were limits to what the unmanned aerial vehicles could achieve alone and that they were part of a package of measures and tools to help the Mission to achieve its objectives. On a more general note, he said that United Nations peacekeeping could not be outpaced if it was to remain effective since negative forces were already using increasingly sophisticated technology. He added that some technologies might be good for MONUSCO, but that they might not be as suited for deployment in other missions. Major General Leonard Muriuki Ngondi spoke of the need for an in-mission assessment of the predeployment training of United Nations peacekeepers in order to identify and rectify capability gaps and assess the sustainability procedures of contingents for contingent-owned equipment. Major General Muhammad Iqbal Asi spoke about how planned inter-mission cooperation could have an impact on mission crisis management. He said that inter-mission cooperation optimized the use of available assets (as demonstrated by the temporary redeployment of personnel and assets from UNMIL to UNOCI); enabled joint border surveillance; and enhanced local cooperation by providing a forum for liaison, coordination, the exchange of information and the opportunity to review agreed action points. Such themes were discussed by Council members in a subsequent exchange of views, in which many members expressed support for inter-mission cooperation, with some members expressing the view that it should be an ad-hoc measure in response to crisis situations and not a long-term solution. Members also expressed support for in-mission assessments of predeployment training, and a number of Council members noted the potential utility of new technologies for peacekeeping operations. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations underlined the importance of

good performance and stated that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was working on a number of targeted manuals to address performance issues.

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

On 12 June, the Council held a debate to consider the reports of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The Council heard briefings by the President (Judge Theodor Meron) and the Prosecutor (Serge Brammertz) of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and by the President (Judge Vagn Joensen) and the Prosecutor (Hassan Bubacar Jallow) of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on the progress of the Tribunals in fulfilling their completion strategies and transition to the International Residual Mechanism.

Mr. Meron addressed both the completion strategy of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the work of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. He highlighted the cases completed since his previous report, leaving four trials (three of which were as a result of late arrests) and some appeals. A number of different measures had been adopted to minimize delays, but three appeals would go beyond 31 December 2014. Any appeal in the case of *Prlić et al* would only be completed in mid-2017 but it was not yet clear if an appeal would go to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia or the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. The retention of staff continued to be a challenge. All the arrangements were in place for the commencement of the Hague branch of the International Residual Mechanism on 1 July 2013. He expressed concern about the situation in Mali, where 17 persons convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda were serving their sentences. The International Residual Mechanism was responsible for three of the nine fugitives under the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and their arrest and transfer was a priority. He thanked the Council for its recent statement marking the twentieth anniversary of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Brammertz said that the Office of the Prosecutor had to accept the judgements issued but would continue to use all remaining legal mechanisms to press for outcomes that they thought were just and that properly reflected the culpability of the accused. The trial phase of Radovan *Karadžić* and the prosecution case against Ratko *Mladić* and Goran *Hadžić* would be completed by the end of the year. Problems affecting national war crimes strategies, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina, had become an increasingly disturbing refrain that required urgent action. Political leaders on all sides genuinely needed to commit to making the strategies successful. Establishing accountability on the fugitive networks in Serbia was a work in progress. Survivor communities had expressed frustration at the lack of progress in locating missing persons, requiring authorities in the region to refocus urgently. The Office of the Prosecutor was seeking creative ways to encourage staff members to stay at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and retention incentives were crucial in this regard.

Mr. Joensen recalled that all trials were complete but noted that one appeal would now finish by July 2015, as a result of a delay in translation, which he attributed to staff leaving the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda early.

His priority was to resolve the issue of the relocation of the seven acquitted persons and three persons who had served their sentences but remained in a safe house in Arusha. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had developed a strategic plan and called on all States to assist with the problem. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was still experiencing difficulties with staff retention owing to the lack of financial incentives to stay and the lack of possibilities for upward mobility. Following the resignation of Judge Andrésia Vaz (Senegal), he would be requesting the appointment of a replacing judge.

Mr. Jallow referred to the tracking, by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, of the three top-level fugitives, work on the archives and legacy projects. The work would only really be done when all the fugitives had been arrested and brought to justice. He urged all States to support the tracking and arrest of the fugitives.

A few Council members expressed disappointment that the Council had not been able to agree to the debate being open to all States Members of the United Nations. Most Council members congratulated the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on its 20 years of service and paid tribute to its contribution to international criminal justice. Some Council members noted that the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had paved the way for the creation of the International Criminal Court. In respect of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, most expressed support for finding a solution to the relocation of acquitted persons and urged States to cooperate in the arrest of the fugitives. A reward programme was highlighted, under which up to $5 million was available for information leading to their arrest. A Council member expressed concern that an appeal would continue beyond December 2014. A view was expressed that the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda should be transferred to Rwanda.

The following non-Council members participated in the debate in accordance with rule 37 or rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure and made statements: Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Liechtenstein (on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Jordan, Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Uruguay) and the European Union (on behalf of the European Union and its member States).

Women, peace and security

On 24 June, the Security Council held an open debate on the theme "Women, peace and security: addressing impunity and effective justice for crimes of sexual violence in conflict", and adopted resolution 2106 (2013). The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, William Hague, presided over the debate. France, Guatemala and Morocco were also represented at ministerial level. The Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, and the Legal Consultant to the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, Jane Adong Anywar, briefed the Council. Over 40 non-Council members participated.

The Secretary-General recalled his recent trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the testimony he had heard from women and girls who had been raped and maimed by armed groups on all sides of the conflict, and their desire to end impunity. He described the varying and complementary work of United Nations entities in that area and called on leaders to voice their unequivocal support for the cause and to provide resources to support the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other mechanisms. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict described the systematic rape of women, girls, men and boys in the countries of the former Yugoslavia 20 years ago and lamented the tiny number of prosecutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina since that time. She said that conflict-related sexual violence, when left unaddressed by justice or reparations, could have a profound impact on the sustainability of peace and on prospects for development. She outlined the comprehensive approach of the new resolution in providing operational detail and reinforcing the conceptual framework for tackling sexual violence in conflict. She once again emphasized the importance of national ownership, leadership and political will.

The Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that the world had yet to take up war-zone rape as a serious priority. She described graphic instances of sexual violence and cases of victims she had met from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Syrian Arab Republic. She said that in many conflict situations there were no Governments to take responsibility, so there was no accountability and no protection. She said that the Security Council must therefore step in to provide leadership and assistance. The Legal Consultant to the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice said that sexual violence crimes must be excluded from amnesty provisions. Leadership on accountability must be addressed at the national level, which includes adequate resources, legislation, and capacity-building. Domestic efforts, however, must be complemented by effective international efforts.

Council members expressed strong support for the need to tackle impunity and to strengthen national institutions and rule of law systems in order to hold perpetrators accountable. They recalled the primary responsibility of national courts to tackle impunity. Some members recalled the important role played by international criminal justice, including the International Criminal Court. Many reiterated the crucial role women can and must play in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and the importance of their participation in all sectors of society as stakeholders, not subjects. Many delegations highlighted the importance of addressing root causes. Some Council members and a number of non-Council members called for comprehensive service provision for victims of sexual violence. Some members referenced the newly adopted Arms Trade Treaty and its regulation of arms transfers linked to violence committed against women and children. A number reiterated calls for the deployment of more women protection advisers to United Nations missions. Members welcomed the adoption of the new resolution and expressed support for the hard work and mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Some delegations stressed that the Security Council should address the issue of sexual violence according to its mandate, in cooperation with other United Nations bodies. Some delegations also emphasized that concerned countries should play a primary role in addressing the issue of sexual violence stressing the primacy of State sovereignty, and that any

work to address sexual violence, including engagement with non-State actors or offers of assistance, should be done in cooperation and with the full consent of the Government concerned.

In resolution 2106 (2013), the Council reiterated the importance of addressing sexual violence in armed conflict whenever relevant, in mediation efforts, ceasefires and peace agreements; requested relevant United Nations entities to assist national authorities in addressing sexual violence concerns explicitly in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, security sector and justice sector reform processes; requested the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations entities to accelerate the implementation of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements; called for the further deployment of women protection advisers in accordance with resolution 1888 (2009), in respect of peacekeeping and political missions; and recognized the primary responsibility of States to respect and ensure the human rights of all persons within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction. It stressed women's participation as essential to any prevention and protection response. The commitments made by the Group of Eight Ministers for Foreign Affairs in the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict were recognized by the Council.

Natural resources

On 19 June, the Security Council held an open debate on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security: conflict prevention and natural resources". The Security Council was briefed by the Deputy Secretary-General; the Chair of the Africa Progress Panel, Kofi Annan; the Managing Director of the World Bank, Caroline Anstey; and the Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Rebeca Grynspan.

The Deputy Secretary-General said that the United Nations had bolstered its capacity to engage on natural resource issues, including through improving understanding of their impact on peace processes and mediation efforts. The Global Compact Initiative and its Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provided a global standard for preventing and addressing human rights abuses linked to business activities. Mr. Annan presented the main findings of the 2013 report of the Africa Progress Panel entitled *Equity in Extractives: Stewarding Africa's Natural Resources for All*. National Governments were responsible for developing strategies and policies that would generate jobs for the local economy, reduce poverty and promote transparency. The international community must clamp down on tax evasion by multinational companies. Ms. Anstey briefed the Council on the activities of the World Bank in the extractives sector. Working in more than 70 countries, the Bank was levelling the playing field for contract negotiations; ensuring proper revenue collection; managing expenditures financed through natural resources; supporting affected local communities; and working with civil society, parliamentarians and the media to improve accountability. Ms. Grynspan said that UNDP provided impartial advice and support to countries on how to effectively manage their natural resources by helping them to build robust legal and policy frameworks. UNDP also worked to ensure the full participation of local communities, especially women, since there was growing evidence that the negative impacts of the extractive sector were not gender neutral. Council members expressed a range of views, with a number of Council members recognizing the role

that the illegal exploitation of natural resources could play in triggering, escalating and fuelling conflict. Others stressed the importance of the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and questioned the role of the Council in dealing with that issue. They also mentioned the important contribution that Governments and the private sector could make in preventing conflict in countries affected by conflict and the potential of voluntary international and regional initiatives to improve transparency and combat the illicit exploitation of natural resources.

Children and armed conflict

On 17 June, the Council held an open debate on children and armed conflict. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Leila Zerrougui, presented the twelfth annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/245). The Special Representative said that there had been marked progress, especially in relation to dialogue with parties to conflict and action plans, but noted disturbing new trends and concerns for children. In particular, she highlighted concern over the situation of children in the Syrian Arab Republic, Mali and the Central African Republic. The Special Representative announced that her office would be launching a campaign that aimed to end by 2016 the association of children with State armed forces in situations of armed conflict. She called upon the Council to ensure provisions for child protection advisers in all relevant United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and political missions and for perpetrators to receive the strongest signal from the Council that their crimes would not go unpunished.

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations underlined the importance of child protection advisers in peacekeeping operations. While highlighting successes, he stressed that more needed to be done. He said that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was finalizing predeployment training materials for peacekeepers as well as revising their guidelines on child protection. The Deputy Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Yoka Brandt, and the Associate Vice-President of Save the Children, Greg Ramm, both expressed concern at the use of schools in military operations and the use of explosive weapons. Mr. Ramm also raised the issue of the physical, psychological and social impacts on children of sexual violence. He called on Member States to place children at the centre of international action on addressing sexual violence in conflict.

The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/8), in which it, inter alia, stressed the commitment of the Council to effectively deal with persistent perpetrators of violations and abuse against children in situations of armed conflict, including by strengthening the implementation of action plans, child protection provisions and accountability, stressed the primary role of Governments in providing protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflict and reiterated its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other sexual violence, abductions, attacks against schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Council (S/2010/507) ("wrap-up" session)

In the afternoon session on 27 June 2013, the Security Council held a wrap-up session, convened as a private meeting, as described in paragraph 36 (b) (iii) of the note by the President of the Council (S/2010/507). In accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Council, over 60 non-Council members attended. The President circulated a concept note in advance of the meeting. The meeting allowed for an exchange on a range of issues discussed during the month of June. Most Council members welcomed the President's tight management of Council business, that the meetings were starting promptly and that speakers were being encouraged to be concise and brief, in accordance with the guidance provided in the note S/2010/507.

The month had been busy and the main themes drawn out in the discussion were the following:

- Some Council members supported the debate on conflict prevention and natural resources and expressed disappointment that there had not been agreement among Council members on a presidential statement to accompany the debate. Some expressed the view that the topic was not for the Council to discuss, but for other United Nations bodies.
- Most Council members welcomed and supported the debates on sexual violence in conflict and children and armed conflict. Many picked up and endorsed the theme of tackling impunity and ensuring accountability for crimes committed, commenting that the debates had noticeably helped push that agenda forward.
- A number of Council members noted the positive impact of the Council's actions in respect of UNDOF.
- Looking ahead, a number of Council members welcomed the imminent formal establishment of the new mission in Mali, MINUSMA, and anticipated the first report on progress. The situations in the Central African Republic, Lebanon and Libya also drew comment, with members hoping for positive action from the Council on those topics in order to help to stabilize the situations in those countries.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 22 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United States held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of July 2013. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samantha **Power**

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Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America (July 2013)

Africa

Burundi

On 22 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB), Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Paul Seger, and the Permanent Representative of Burundi, Herménégilde Niyonzima, briefed the Security Council on Burundi. The Special Representative highlighted the opening of some political space in Burundi, but expressed concern that ongoing human rights abuses and the recent passage of a restrictive media law, coupled with poor economic growth, threatened Burundian stability. The Chair of the Burundi configuration stressed that the same concerns undermined peacebuilding efforts. The Permanent Representative said that considerable progress had been made by Burundi on security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law, and the promotion of human rights. He asserted that the Government of Burundi could not consolidate those gains without international assistance and highlighted that while the international community to date had pledged 46 per cent of the $2.6 billion it had committed to poverty reduction in Burundi, little of that money had materialized. He cited the two recent political workshops for Burundian political actors, held with BNUB assistance, as opportunities that produced constructive changes to the electoral code and a road map for elections in 2015.

In closed consultations, members of the Council echoed the Special Representative's encouragement of the opening of political space in Burundi, but voiced serious concern over continued human rights abuses in Burundi, impunity for human rights offenders, and ongoing unresolved land disputes. Some members expressed concern over restrictive media and assembly laws that were recently promulgated. Several Council members mentioned the need to extend the mandate of BNUB until after the 2015 elections, with one member praising the mission's work while calling on the United Nations to respect the wishes of the Government of Burundi to draw down the mission sooner.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 18 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous, briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). He reviewed the progress and challenges in Côte d'Ivoire, noting that while the President, Alassane Ouattara, had introduced important political and economic reforms, the pace of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the country's estimated 65,000 former combatants remained uneven. He indicated that the security situation, especially along the Ivorian-Liberian border, remained fragile, and reported on the efforts of UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to assist the

Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to improve cross-border security. The Under-Secretary-General also noted efforts to enhance inter-mission cooperation between UNOCI and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. He noted the need for enhanced efforts to counter impunity for human rights violations. In closed consultations, Council members noted progress in some areas, as well as remaining challenges, such as the security situation. Some Council members expressed concern about the human rights situation and called for greater progress on security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; national reconciliation; and impartial justice. Many Council members discussed the Secretary-General's recommendation for a reduction in the military strength of UNOCI.

On 30 July, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2112 (2013), by which it extended the mandate of the mission until 30 June 2014, authorized the drawdown of two battalions and affirmed its intention to consider a further reduction of two battalions based on the security situation and the capacity of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to assume the mission's security responsibilities.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 11 July, the Council held consultations to discuss the Secretary-General's report of 28 June on the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (S/2013/388). The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations cited the many recent steps taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to meet its commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region. He noted that, given the fractious political landscape in the country, a Security Council endorsement of those reforms would be essential to reducing any attempts by spoilers to hinder the efforts of the Government to meet its commitments.

Regarding the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade, the Under-Secretary-General noted that two of the three contingents were almost fully deployed, but were still awaiting their equipment, and the third contingent would deploy in the coming weeks. He stressed that the Brigade's activities would be well coordinated to complement the broader political process and would take into account any impact on the safety of civilians and United Nations peacekeepers. On the transfer of the MONUSCO tasks outlined in Council resolution 2098 (2013), he reiterated concerns that the United Nations country team in the Democratic Republic of the Congo would have to be adequately funded to take over critical mission functions such as demining and elections support. He promised a more thorough analysis of these issues in the Secretary-General's September report. He reported that a contractor had been identified to provide and operate unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles within MONUSCO, and an agreement had been signed on 12 July with the aim of having the vehicles operational by October or November 2013.

Members of the Council reiterated their support for the Framework and the steps taken by signatories to meet their commitments. One member accused elements of the leadership of the Intervention Brigade of colluding with commanders of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), and criticized the Secretary-General's reports on MONUSCO and the Framework for being inconsistent regarding their findings on external support to the Mouvement du

23 mars (M23). The Under-Secretary-General categorically denied any collaboration of the Intervention Brigade with FDLR and asked that further details be provided. As for the reference to "external support to M23", he explained that the assertion was based on "rumours" that MONUSCO heard from the field, and which it could not verify but was obligated to report to the Council. He noted that the Group of Experts would be in a better position to verify those allegations.

Several members of the Council echoed their support for the deployment of the Intervention Brigade, but noted the serious nature of the allegations against it, and requested that more details be provided. Some members expressed concern with the accusations on the reports of collaboration between the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and FDLR. Some members of the Council expressed the view that the deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles would be an important tool for the future of more effective United Nations peacekeeping, while other members indicated that the use of such vehicles in any other mission beyond MONUSCO should be considered only after a full evaluation of the outcomes of their use within MONUSCO. Members of the Council reiterated their support for the MONUSCO mandate and conveyed the importance of receiving a detailed road map and timeline for the transfer of tasks from MONUSCO to the United Nations country team, as requested in resolution 2098 (2013).

On 22 July, the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, Agshin Mehdiyev, briefed the Council in closed consultations in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) on the Committee's work, including deliberations on the midterm report of the Group of Experts. Council members noted the importance of proper implementation of the sanctions regime and the work of the Group of Experts, particularly given the current political situation. Council members raised concerns over the continued activities of M23, the human rights violations allegedly committed by FARDC, the Experts' finding of local-level coordination between the armed forces and FDLR and continued — but limited — external support being provided to M23, and activities of other armed groups that continued to violate the sanctions and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. Many Council members also highlighted the need to break the link between the illicit trade in natural resources and the conflict. However, one member accused the Group of not conducting its investigations in a professional, impartial and independent manner, including a lack of thorough consultation with concerned member States and not providing evidence to back its accusations.

On 25 July, the United States Secretary of State, John F. Kerry, convened a ministerial-level debate in the Security Council on the situation in the Great Lakes region, during which the Council adopted a presidential statement on the subject (S/PRST/2013/11). The Council received briefings from the Secretary-General; the President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim; the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Great Lakes region, Mary Robinson; the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda, Sam Kutesa; and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Raymond Tshibanda N'tungamulongo. Council member ministerial-level participation included the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, Louise Mushikiwabo; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Fernando Carrera; the Deputy Minister for Development of France, Pascal Canfin; and the Senior Adviser to the President of

Togo for diplomatic matters and cooperation, Kofi Esaw. In addition to Council members, representatives of Belgium, Burundi, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the European External Action Service participated. Participants uniformly supported the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, broadly praised reform efforts by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, welcomed the establishment of the MONUSCO Intervention Brigade, and reiterated calls for ending support for armed rebel groups. Council members underlined the importance of sustained international engagement in the region and greater donor coordination to ensure that assistance would support efforts to address the root causes of conflict in the Great Lakes. Member States also looked forward to the elaboration of the Framework's benchmarks and their adoption on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly as the mechanism to ensure full implementation of the agreement.

Peace and security in Africa (Sahel)

On 16 July, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/10) affirming its concern about the situation in the Sahel region and welcoming the development of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel and its three defining goals. The Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure effective implementation of the strategy through close collaboration between the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel, the United Nations Office for West Africa and relevant United Nations entities in the region.

The Council stressed the importance of a coordinated approach by all concerned United Nations entities in the region and recognized the importance for the strategy to be implemented in close consultation with States of the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb and relevant regional and subregional organizations. The Council called on the Sahel, West African and Maghreb States to enhance interregional cooperation and coordination to develop strategies that address security threats in the region.

The Council welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to hold a high-level meeting on the Sahel on the sidelines of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly and to undertake a visit to the region later in 2013 with the President of the World Bank Group.

Somalia

On 29 July, the Council released a statement to the press, condemning the suicide car bomb attack against the embassy of Turkey in Mogadishu which resulted in the death of one person and left several others wounded.

Somalia/Eritrea

On 18 July, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea, Kim Sook, briefed the Council in closed consultations in his capacity as Chair of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea on the Committee's work over the past 120 days, including its deliberations on the final reports on Somalia and Eritrea of the Monitoring Group (S/2013/413 and S/2013/440) and discussion of the report of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Council pursuant to resolution 2060 (2012) (S/2013/415).

Council members highlighted the important role played by the Monitoring Group and stressed the need for strict implementation of sanctions. Council members raised concerns over the expansion of Al-Shabaab in regional countries, noted that the Federal Government of Somalia had made significant progress but faced continued political and security challenges, and condemned violations of the charcoal ban. Regarding Eritrea, some Council members stressed the need for Eritrea to grant access and cooperate with the Monitoring Group while others urged the Group to act with impartiality. On 24 July, the Council, by resolution 2111 (2013), extended the mandate of the Monitoring Group until 25 November 2014 and renewed the humanitarian relief provisions until 25 October 2014.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 8 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Hilde Johnson, delivered a briefing, followed by consultations of the whole, on the situation in South Sudan. She highlighted progress made by South Sudanese officials, with UNMISS support, in developing South Sudan's political institutions; building capacity and professionalism in the police, justice and rule of law institutions; and the Government's use of amnesty to foster reconciliation with disaffected armed groups. She said that the security situation in south-east Jonglei State had deteriorated, with fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the David Yau Yau militia, as well as looting, property damage, and harassment of civilians by both security forces and armed groups, leading to the displacement of thousands of civilians. She also expressed grave concern at the ongoing mobilization in Jonglei of armed Lou Nuer youth against the Murle tribe. The Special Representative was deeply concerned about the unknown status of thousands of Murle civilians located in areas currently inaccessible to the Mission. She welcomed a public statement by President Salva Kiir calling for accountability for the violations committed by ill-disciplined members of the security forces, but noted that more needed to be done to instil respect for international humanitarian and human rights law within those forces. She also voiced concern over human rights and violations of the status-of-forces agreement between South Sudan and the United Nations, constraints in the operating environment for the Mission and humanitarian agencies, including looting and damage to property of the latter by both armed groups and State security forces. The Special Representative also outlined the Mission's operational and logistical challenges in fulfilling its mandated tasks, and called for UNMISS to be provided with additional force enablers. She stressed the need to ensure accountability for the shooting down of the UNMISS helicopter in December 2012 and the attack in April 2013 on the Mission's ground convoy. Council members expressed concerns about the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation, including wide-scale displacements and risks of deadly inter-communal violence in Jonglei State, about human rights violations, and UNMISS resource and capability constraints, as well as about the need to conclude investigations into the downing of an UNMISS helicopter in December 2012 by SPLA and the ambush of an UNMISS ground convoy in April 2013. Some Council members expressed concern over restrictions on operations and threats to the security of the United Nations and humanitarian personnel and stressed the need for the Government of South Sudan to strictly adhere to the status-of-forces agreement with UNMISS.

On 11 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations updated the Council during consultations of the whole on the Sudan and South Sudan and their compliance with resolution 2046 (2012). He said that there had been little concrete progress on bilateral relations, and in particular on the issues of oil transit and both sides' accusations of continued support to the rebel groups, despite the positive meetings held in Khartoum during the visit of the Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, on 30 June and 1 July. The Under-Secretary-General reported that the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) were collaborating to fulfil the workplan proposed on 9 June by the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki, but that those efforts were not expected to have reached their conclusions prior to the deadline of 7 August. He informed Council members that aerial reconnaissance by the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei as part of the Joint Border Verification Monitoring Mechanism remained suspended for security reasons after the Mechanism's headquarters had been shelled on 14 June by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLM-N). On the two areas, the Under-Secretary-General reported that the Government of the Sudan had announced its unwillingness to schedule another round of direct negotiations with SPLM-N until it was satisfied that South Sudan had terminated its support for SPLM-N. He said that the Government of the Sudan was also unwilling to allow the United Nations proposed vaccination campaign or other humanitarian relief work in the SPLM-N-controlled areas of Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile States because of the SPLM-N demands that such activities should be conducted from the territory of Ethiopia or Kenya. On the Abyei area, the Under-Secretary-General said there had been no progress on either establishing the temporary institutions or on a process to establish final status. Council members expressed serious concerns about the lack of progress, and hoped that the continuing work by the High-level Implementation Panel, IGAD, and the African Union Commission would enable additional progress. Council members also voiced serious concern about the escalation of fighting and the humanitarian situation in the two areas, calling for a cessation of hostilities that would allow humanitarian access and the resumption of political negotiations to resolve the conflict. Some Council members criticized the activities of SPLM-N and the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, urging the Council to increase pressure on the insurgents, while others called on the Sudanese Armed Forces to cease aerial bombardments of civilians.

On 24 July, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the Council in closed consultations on relations between the two countries, reporting that there had been no progress. He particularly focused on efforts by the High-level Implementation Panel, the African Union Commission and IGAD to resolve disputes between the two countries, in particular on the issue of external support to rebels, and to dissuade the Sudan from executing its announced intention to terminate oil shipments as from 7 August. He expressed the view that shutting off the oil flow before the African Union/IGAD mechanisms set up by President Mbeki had time to work would be counter-productive for both countries. The Special Envoy reported that those investigative and border zone demarcation mechanisms had only just started their work. He also reported that South Sudan had already begun to reduce its oil production and make technical preparations to shut down its oil wells in anticipation of the deadline of 7 August, reducing the oil flow and incurring costs. He also mentioned news media reports indicating that elements of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front had attacked a

Sudanese Armed Forces convoy near Sidra, Northern Kordofan State, in the Sudan. He said there had been no progress on the Abyei area temporary institutions or final status arrangements, and that the situation in Abyei remained tense, particularly after the killing on 4 May of the Paramount Chief, while the High-level Implementation Panel waited for representatives to be appointed for Abyei talks. He said that there had been no progress in providing humanitarian assistance to the SPLM-N-controlled areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States, although the World Food Programme had provided food assistance to approximately 120,000 civilians in Government-controlled territory in the two areas. He reported that the President of South Sudan had undertaken a major government reshuffle on 23 July, including the firing of his Vice-President, Cabinet, and the secretary-general of the ruling party.

Council members expressed their firm support for President Mbeki and the efforts of the High-level Implementation Panel, the African Union Commission and IGAD to mediate the disputes, and expressed their concerns over the possibility that oil trade between the Sudan and South Sudan might be terminated before the African Union and IGAD dispute resolution measures had had sufficient time to work. Many called for an end to cross-border support to rebel groups. More than half of the Council members also raised the importance of resolving differences over the Abyei area urgently, while one delegation expressed concern at the Ngok Dinka community's rejection of the establishment of the temporary institutions. Several members were concerned by South Sudanese internal stability questions.

On 14 July, the members of the Council issued a statement to the press condemning the attack on a patrol of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in which 7 Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed and 17 peacekeepers and police were injured and offering their condolences. The members of the Council also called on the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice. On 15 July, the Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Dmitry Titov, briefed the Council on the attack against UNAMID personnel on 13 July. Council members expressed their deep concern over the increase in the number of attacks on UNAMID peacekeepers. Council members once again expressed their condolences to the families of the 7 UNAMID troops killed and 17 injured and called on the Government of the Sudan to investigate the attacks. During his remarks before the Council on 24 and 30 July, the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali Osman, pledged that his Government would pursue the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

On 24 July, the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur and Head of UNAMID, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, briefed the Council on the volatile security situation in Darfur and his efforts as Joint Chief Mediator to reinvigorate the Darfur peace process, including mediation efforts with non-signatory movements. He stressed that only a political dialogue that addresses the legitimate grievances of the people of Darfur will resolve the conflict. He underlined the importance of the support and engagement of the Council in encouraging the Government of the Sudan to propose a concrete framework for an all-inclusive Darfur internal dialogue and consultations and helping to persuade non-signatory movements to abandon armed struggle and to start peace talks without preconditions on the basis of the Doha Document, which presents the most viable way to sustainable peace in Darfur. He also noted with concern the expansion

of inter-communal conflict over natural resources in Darfur. He called for honouring in a timely manner the pledges made at the Doha donor conference in April 2013 to help to create an environment more conducive to peace in the region. Regarding the effectiveness of UNAMID, he stressed the need for better training and equipment and more flexibility within the mission's current deployment. The Permanent Representative of the Sudan also addressed the Council, emphasizing the need for development assistance and for increased cooperation between UNAMID and local authorities to help to safeguard mission personnel. In closed consultations, several Council members called for a strategic review of the UNAMID mandate. Some others contended that the current mandate was appropriate and sufficient, while echoing the call of the Joint Special Representative for better training and equipment to boost the mission's effectiveness. Several members expressed concern over impediments placed by the Government of the Sudan on UNAMID access. While several members noted the slow pace of progress, most supported the efforts of the Joint Special Representative to revitalize the peace process. Some stressed the need for the Council's increased pressure on non-signatory armed movements to convince the latter to join the Doha peace process.

On 30 July, by resolution 2113 (2013), the Council extended the mandate of UNAMID, reflecting in the resolution changes on the ground, including the deteriorating security and humanitarian situations and attacks on peacekeepers, and requesting a detailed and forward-looking review of the progress of UNAMID towards achieving its mandate.

West Africa

On 10 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), Said Djinnit, briefed the Council on political, economic and security developments and transnational threats to peace and security across West Africa. He cited the need to strengthen regional cooperation to address fragility across the Sahel, Mano River and Gulf of Guinea regions. He stressed the readiness of the United Nations to enhance Nigerian counter-terrorism, human rights, and disaster relief capacity. Council members unanimously supported the efforts of the Special Representative to facilitate the agreement of 3 July between the Government and opposition parties in Guinea and several Council members called for UNOWA to lead the United Nations system-wide efforts to implement the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel. Council members expressed concern about transnational threats, including terrorism, transnational organized crime, and maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. Some Council members noted the importance of incorporating a human rights component into Nigerian security efforts to combat the threat of Boko Haram.

Asia and Middle East

United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia

On 15 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia, Miroslav Jenča, briefed the Council in consultations on the activities of the Centre. He delivered a comprehensive review of the Centre's accomplishments in the five Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and

Uzbekistan) since his briefing to the Council on 29 January. He explained that the Centre had organized three major policy events in 2013 focused on countering terrorism through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, tackling illegal drug problems related to Afghanistan in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and addressing the impact of glacial melting on water management in cooperation with UNESCO and the World Bank. He also noted that the Centre had developed a framework proposal on modernizing the legal framework for transboundary water management in the Aral Sea basin, and also continued to work closely with United Nations country teams on the issues related to conflict prevention, and to encourage cooperation between Afghanistan and the Central Asian States, particularly in the context of their concerns about a post-2014 Afghanistan. He noted that the Centre will remain focused on its three priority areas: the impact of transboundary threats facing the region, the implications of national developments for regional stability, and the management of common natural resources and environmental degradation.

Council members offered unwavering support for the Special Representative and the Centre, particularly the Centre's regional work to counter terrorism, facilitate water and energy management, prepare for a post-2014 Afghanistan, and combat drug trafficking. Council members welcomed the role of the Centre as a successful example of United Nations preventive diplomacy mechanisms. The importance of the Centre's objectivity and consensual approach to its success was noted, as were its initiatives on human rights, refugees, and women and peace and security. Some Council members enquired about the much-delayed World Bank assessment on the Roghun Dam project, and encouraged the Centre's active engagement on the associated political dialogue. In the context of the Centre's strong collaboration with regional organizations, some Council members noted the need for increased cooperation with the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The Council issued a statement to the press, reaffirming the importance of the preventive diplomacy mandate of the Centre, particularly its focus on transnational threats and sustainable development.

Iraq

On 16 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Martin Kobler, briefed the Council on the work of UNAMI during the past four months. He noted the Governorate Council elections of 20 April and 20 June, and the improved Iraq-Kuwait relations. However, he voiced concern about continuing challenges regarding Iraq's political and security situation, including increasing sectarian violence, and ongoing efforts to resettle the residents of Camp Hurriya. Council members expressed full support for the United Nations role in Iraq, and commended the leadership of the Special Representative as he reached the end of his tenure and assumed his new position as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Head of MONUSCO. Members welcomed the successful holding of provincial elections and the developments in Iraq-Kuwait relations, and underlined the importance of implementing resolution 2107 (2013). They expressed their concern about the current political and the deteriorating security situation in Iraq, including the incident of 19 April at Hawija. They also remained worried about the impact of the Syrian crisis on Iraq and joined the

Special Representative in calling for the border crossings to be reopened for refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic to Iraq. There was broad support from members for renewing the UNAMI mandate for another 12 months and the mandate was renewed on 30 July.

Lebanon

On 9 July, the Special Coordinator of the Secretary-General for Lebanon, Derek Plumbly, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council in closed consultations on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and on the activities of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) over the past four months. The Special Coordinator mentioned the negative effect of the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic on Lebanon, particularly the repeated incidents of cross-border fire, the strain caused by the influx of 590,000 Syrian refugees and rising sectarian tensions. He also discussed the acknowledged participation of Hizbullah in the Syrian conflict and underlined the need for all Lebanese parties to recommit themselves to the Baabda Declaration and the policy of disassociation. He noted the important role President Michel Sleiman and the Lebanese Armed Forces had played in preserving Lebanon's stability. The Special Coordinator expressed his concern at repeated Israeli violations of Lebanon's airspace. The majority of the members of the Council expressed concern at the Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty. Council members expressed their support for Lebanon's policy of disassociation from the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Some members emphasized the need to combat arms trafficking across the Syria-Lebanon border. Other members focused on the threat of Hizbullah and the border incursions by Syrian armed forces. Following the meeting, the Council released a statement to the press, condemning the terrorist bombing in Beirut on 9 July. The Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/9) on 10 July, in which it expressed growing concern at the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, called upon all Lebanese parties to respect the policy of disassociation, and expressed support for President Sleiman and the Lebanese Armed Forces in maintaining stability.

Afghanistan

On 11 July, the Deputy Secretary-General, Jan Eliasson, briefed the Council in consultations on his visit to Afghanistan from 28 June to 2 July. He reported on his meetings with President Hamid Karzai, various Afghan Government ministers and senior officials, the Speakers of the Wolesi Jirga and Meshrano Jirga (Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, respectively), members of the High Peace Council, officials from the Independent Election Commission, the Chairperson of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and representatives of political parties and civil society groups. He also visited Kandahar Province, where he met the Governor and Provincial Council. Topics discussed at his meetings included the 2014 presidential election, the security situation in Afghanistan, ongoing peace and reconciliation efforts, humanitarian and development aid, human rights, the rule of law, and support from the international community, including the United Nations, during and after the country's transition in 2014. The Deputy Secretary-General emphasized the importance of the United Nations continued engagement in Afghanistan after the 2014 transition and the holding of an inclusive, transparent and credible election that year. Council members expressed their support

for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the United Nations ongoing role in Afghanistan and stressed the importance of having an electoral framework in place soon so that the election in 2014 is free and fair and has wide participation from Afghans. Many Council members also highlighted the importance of continued improvement of human rights in Afghanistan — especially for women — and of the United Nations role in assisting Afghanistan to expand women's political participation. Some Council members expressed concern about the security challenges for Afghanistan after 2014. A proposal to consider a Security Council trip to Afghanistan was discussed.

Non-proliferation/Islamic Republic of Iran

On 15 July, the members of the Council held a public meeting to hear an open briefing by the Permanent Representative of Australia, Gary Quinlan, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), on the work of the Committee from 6 March to 15 July 2013. He noted the Committee's consideration of the final report of the Panel of Experts, as well as its review of alleged violations and responses to communications from Member States. He said the Committee was exploring appropriate responses to the Panel's unanimous conclusion that launches by the Islamic Republic of Iran of Shahab 1 and 3 missiles constituted a violation of resolution 1929 (2010), as did an incident reported by a Member State involving the interception in January 2013 of a vessel suspected of carrying illicit weapons from the Islamic Republic of Iran to be delivered to that State.

The members of the Council commended the efforts of the Committee in carrying out its mandate and renewed their support for the work of the Committee and the Panel. The members of the Council reiterated their support for negotiations in the "five plus one" framework and underlined the need to pursue a comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations. Some members expressed grave concerns regarding continued non-compliance by the Islamic Republic of Iran with resolutions of the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as documented by the IAEA Director General, and also about alleged violations of the sanctions. Some members emphasized the need for the work of the Committee and the Panel to be neutral and impartial, and based on clear facts and hard evidence. Members of the Council generally supported the Committee's outreach efforts, including its recent open briefing to the United Nations membership.

Middle East (Syrian Arab Republic)

On 16 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Valerie Amos, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Antonio Guterres, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović, briefed the Council on the worsening Syrian crisis. The Under-Secretary-General described the situation as an unfolding human tragedy in which at least 6.8 million Syrians required urgent humanitarian assistance, including more than 4.2 million internally displaced people, and called for a "mix of approaches" to address the humanitarian challenges in the Syrian Arab Republic. The High Commissioner stressed that the situation in the country cannot be treated as a humanitarian emergency, but that a longer-term development strategy is needed. He reiterated his call on all States to keep their borders open to Syrians who seek protection. The Assistant Secretary-

General said that the supply of weapons to both sides must stop and that the solution should be political, not military. He added that parties must initiate immediate negotiations to reduce violence and human rights violations, and improve the protection of civilians. He expressed concern at the use of rhetoric by religious and political leaders in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region that could exacerbate the existing sectarian tension. Representatives of Member States whose interests are specifically affected were invited to participate and made statements.

In closed consultations, Council members agreed that a political solution is needed to end the humanitarian conflict, but varied in their views of the roles of the Government and the opposition in perpetuating and helping to mitigate the humanitarian crisis. Many members emphasized that those who had committed human rights violations must be held accountable, and some called for referring the situation to the International Criminal Court. One member said that the United Nations had not adequately addressed abuses reportedly committed by the opposition, while other members described the impact of hosting growing Syrian refugee populations.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

In the Council's open debate on the situation in the Middle East on 23 July, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, welcomed the recent announcement by the United States Secretary of State, John F. Kerry, that a basis had been established to resume direct talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians. However, he noted that the parties faced tough choices and would need to secure domestic support to renew negotiations. He welcomed the support of the Arab League and Jordan for renewed talks, and encouraged broader regional and international support for the current diplomatic initiative. Progress would also require a credible political horizon and accompanying effort to improve the situation on the ground, he said. Both the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine and the Permanent Representative of Israel made statements. Many Council members welcomed recent progress on Middle East peace, while acknowledging that the parties would still need to face many challenging issues. Several members called for a halt to Israeli settlement activity as well as the lifting of restrictions on the Gaza Strip. Some members also called for a halt to rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Members also focused on the violence and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and most emphasized that a political solution was the only durable way to end the crisis. Most members stated support for a second Geneva conference and expressed concern about the delay. Some members emphasized the need for accountability for all acts of violence, and others repeated that arming the sides would not help to end the conflict. Some countries reiterated that the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic should be referred to the International Criminal Court. Members also stated concern about the growing impact of the Syrian crisis on stability and security in Lebanon and the broader region. Some members highlighted that political developments in Egypt were also of serious concern.

Europe

Cyprus

On 15 July, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Lisa Buttenheim, briefed the Council in closed consultations on the situation in Cyprus, which she described as generally calm and stable. She expressed concern, however, that parties continue to circumvent the authority of UNFICYP within the buffer zone. Members of the Council expressed support for extending the UNFICYP mandate. Council members called on all parties concerned to respect the authority of UNFICYP within the buffer zone and expressed support for renewed negotiations to resolve the Cyprus question.

On 30 July, by resolution 2114 (2013), the Council extended the mandate of UNFICYP.

Thematic issues

Protection of civilians in armed conflict: protection of journalists

On 17 July, the Council held an open debate on the protection of journalists in armed conflict. This was the first Council meeting devoted to this subject since the adoption of resolution 1738 (2006) in December 2006. Council members renewed their support for resolution 1738 (2006) and proposed ways to enhance its implementation. Most Council members also referred to the presidential statement of 12 February 2013 (S/PRST/2013/2) on the protection of civilians, in which, as in resolution 1738 (2006), the Council recalled that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians. The Council received a briefing from the Deputy Secretary-General, who noted that in the past decade more than 600 journalists had been killed, and that the majority of the victims are local journalists and media staff who were reporting on corruption and other illegal activities. The Council also received briefings from four journalists, Kathleen Carroll, Richard Engel, Ghaith Abdul-Ahad and Mustafa Haji Abdinur, which marked the first time that journalists had briefed the Security Council.